

Friday June 14 1996

Abu Dhabi D 8.50, Albania L 2.00, Andorra FF 10, Australia A\$ 2.00, Austria S 13.50, Belgium BF 90, Brazil R 1,500, Canada C\$ 12.50, Czechia Kc 12.50, Cyprus C\$ 1.00, Denmark Dk 15, Finland F 10, France FF 10, Germany DM 3.50, Greece D 350, Hong Kong HK\$ 25, Hungary F 200, Iceland Is 100, India Rs 55, Israel NIS 3.90, Italy L 2,000, Japan Y 120, Jordan JD 1.25, Korea K\$ 150, Kuwait KD 0.50, Latvia US\$ 2, Lithuania Lt 2,000, Luxembourg L\$ 40, Macedonia M 50, Malta M 0.43, Mexico D 20, Netherlands G 4.00, Norway Nk 15, Oman OR 1.00, Pakistan R 70, Poland Z 5.50, Portugal E 200, Qatar Qr 5.00, Romania R 2,500, Saudi Arabia R 10, Slovenia S 50, Slovakia S 1,250, Spain P 225, Sweden Sk 18, Switzerland S 2, Taiwan T\$ 20, Thailand B 50, Turkey TL 100,000, Ukraine U\$ 2.00, USA US\$ 2.27, Zimbabwe Z\$ 2.00

The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

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Arts, books and music

Catherine Bennett on superstition

Tuning in to pop's new generation

Review

The retreat from reason

Britpop is dead, long live Bratpop

Books: Hugh Grant unzipped

Plus: Millennium muddle

Twice as many childless women as population falls

David Brindley, Social Services Correspondent

AT LEAST one in five women now in their 20s and 30s will have no children, government statisticians predicted yesterday as they set out how Britain's population will start to fall for the first time since records began.

The proportion of women who remain childless is expected to double compared with those now in their 40s and 50s, as growing numbers decide to put careers first. The trend was underscored by figures showing that the abortion rate in inner London — where the number of working women is highest — has reached 35 per cent of all pregnancies. The national average is about 20 per cent.

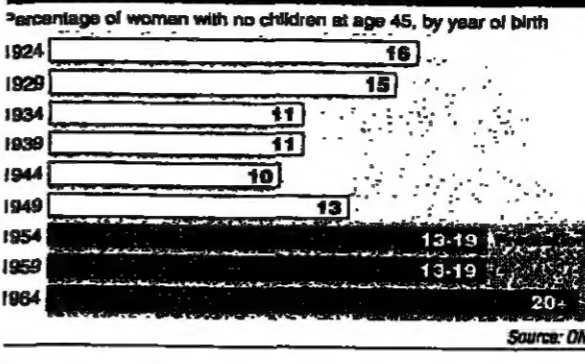
Apart from a blip in 1983, Britain's population has been growing for hundreds of years and may not have been on a downward trend since the Black Death in 1347-51. Officials of the Office for National Statistics (ONS) expect that the United Kingdom's population, now more than 58 million, will start falling after 2025, and drop to about 55 million by 2075.

The birth rate is already below the level necessary to replenish the population, but totals are being sustained by the swelling ranks of pensioners and the large number of women born in the 1960s who are of child-bearing age. Birth rates are dropping in much of Europe, and Germany already has a falling population.

According to ONS forecasts, more than 20 per cent of women born since 1964 will have no children. Latest figures show that 61 per cent of those born in 1969 were childless at 25, as were 23 per cent of those born in 1969 at 35. The forecast of 20 per cent

childlessness by the age of 45 among those born since 1964 compares with 10 per cent of women born in 1944 and 13 per cent of those born in 1948. Bob Armitage, an ONS statistician, said the trend stemmed from "things like women choosing to remain in employment, or to go through education."

Women and childbirth



Thatcher scorns Major with cash gift

Patrick Wintour, Chief Political Correspondent

LADY Thatcher yesterday dealt a new blow to Tory unity on Europe, and renewed her feud with John Major, when she pointedly handed a substantial donation from her own purse to Bill Cash's European Foundation, following the enforced withdrawal of funding for the foundation by Sir James Goldsmith.

John Major was so infuriated by her provocative action that he ended his truce with Lady Thatcher and told her that she would have been better advised to give her spare cash to the Conservative Party.

Mr Major's anger was compounded by the fact that Lady Thatcher's speedy intervention put Mr Cash back on the front foot and is seen as an implicit endorsement of him, despite his connections with Sir James, whose Referendum Party is planning to put up candidates against the Conservatives at the next election.

Mr Cash said: "It was a spontaneous donation made by Lady Thatcher. It is substantial. I am extremely delighted at the confidence she is showing in the foundation and myself. She is one of the great prime ministers of our time."

But Mr Major said of Lady Thatcher's donation: "Everyone must choose what to do with their own money. Lady Thatcher must answer for her own actions. Personally, I would have given the money to the Conservative Party."

Conservative officials tried to play down the significance of the donation, pointing out that as a party member Lady Thatcher was not in breach of any party rules.

However, earlier yesterday, Chancellor Kenneth Clarke had attacked Mr Cash: "The policies suggested by Bill Cash would take us out of the European Union and would be a disaster from the prospect of influencing and would put us in a subordinate position."

Lady Thatcher gave her undisclosed donation following a telephone conversation with Mr Cash yesterday. In her subsequent letter she said the foundation's work was "vital both to the Conservative Party and to the country."

She wrote: "It is well known that the advocates of European federalism have



Lady Thatcher... European Foundation "vital both to the Conservative Party and to the country" she told Bill Cash.

never lacked access to funding. Not so those who seek to preserve British sovereignty. It is therefore all the more important that your foundation should continue its activities."

Mr Cash had been embarrassed earlier this week when he was forced to confirm that he had been taking cash from Sir James. Tory whips ordered Mr Cash to sever his links with Sir James. Even Tory sceptics felt Mr

Cash had made a misjudgment by taking money from a man planning to unseat Conservatives at the next election. John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, said: "The Conservative Party is continuing its war with itself, with Mrs Thatcher once again showing complete contempt for her successor. Bill Cash has not had to search very far to find someone as opposed to the Government's line as Sir James Goldsmith."

Charles Kennedy, the Liberal Democrats' European Union affairs spokesman, said last night: "This is the greatest possible two-finger salute from the former Tory Prime Minister to the present Tory Prime Minister. This contemptuous contribution is designed to add insult to the injuries suffered already by John Major. It's a case of 'Up yours, Major'."

Company House records show that the European Foundation received donations of £116,712 in 1994, the last recorded year. The revival of the feud between Mr Major and his predecessor rounded off a disastrous week for the prime minister, in which two backbench Tory MPs successfully threatened to destroy his one-vote Commons majority — by turn to page 2, column 3



Inside

Britain
An 11-year-old boy who killed an elderly woman by toppling a concrete slab from a tower block was given a fresh start in life.

World News
Colombia's Congress halted impeachment proceedings against President Samper and the US is now likely to impose sanctions.

Finance
Sainsbury will need to increase sales by £400 million a year to cover the costs of the loyalty card it plans to launch.

Sport
Romania became the first side to go out of Euro 96 when they lost 3-0 to Bulgaria amid controversy over a disallowed goal.

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Sorry, Ma'am, but it's just an old pot

Don Glatzer, Arts Correspondent

THE Grosvenor House Art and Antiques Fair promises that "every item, whatever its value, has been vetted for quality, condition and authenticity". But when its patron, the Queen Mother, agreed to lend a pair of Chinese famille verte porcelain cachepots, the vetters made an embarrassing discovery.



One of the fake Chinese vases

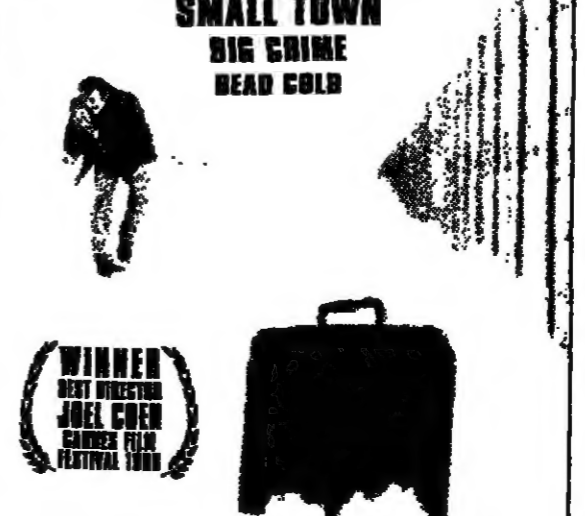
The jardinières were not the product of the Kangxi period (1662-1722), but dated from the late 19th century. Worse, they were not Chinese, but had been made in Paris.

There was a large amount of reproducing of works in the 19th century and a lot of collectors who looked for examples of earlier works," said a spokesman for Sotheby's. "Samson was dispatched to produce copies. They weren't made fraudulently. Samson often used to incorporate an 'S' in the mark to give a clue that the piece was not an original. But at some point the marks might have been removed and then it becomes difficult to tell the original from the copy."

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Sketch

Blackmail lands PM in casualty



Simon Hoggart

It was one of the great PM's Question Times, which I shall be describing in the next century when young journalists come to pay their respects at the Home for Retired Sketchwriters. (It's called 'Bullshitters'. We're not actually cared for, but we sit on the balcony and write rude things about the staff.) It began with Jacques Arnold, the Undead Tory MP for Gravesend, who began with a question so glib, so lustriously thick and oily, that it could be used as Swartega industrial cleanser. I believe Mr Arnold 'lives' in a coffin, buried every mid-night in unconsecrated ground near Chapside. There the wigs dig him up every morning, and drive him, dripping with soil, to the Commons where, exposed to the light of day and threatened with garlic and crucifixes, he is powerless to deny their bidding. He began in his familiar croak: "Will you agree that the firm and resolute management of the British economy by this Government has created the best performing economy in Europe?"

London Tory MPs had told whips they would stop voting if accident and emergency facilities serving their constituents were not restored. Blackmail is an ugly word, mon cher ami Hastings, and Mr Blair did not use it. But he did suggest the threat had worked, wasn't this a "disreputable" way to run a government? Mr Major was at his most urbane. No, he said, Mr Blair's version was not substantially true. "There is no possibility of a government responding to such apocalyptic cynicism". Mr Blair pointed out that the two MPs had been told the A&E would now be replaced. "Is this one of life's happy coincidences?" The exchanges began to get nasty. Mr Major said that fifteen people had made representations about the A&E, implying that the MPs were just two among many. Mr Ashdown clipped in with a fine moralising rant: "This is an administration which has no further purpose except to ensure by whatever means and whatever cost its own limping and miserable survival," he remarked. Backbenchers were now bellowing abuse. Speaker Boothroyd started "naming" them. Mr Harry Greenway stood up to name another. Amid the mayhem, the Prime Minister remained calm, poised and even debonair. "The tactic of threatening to withhold support is not going to work, it is not acceptable, it has not worked, and will not at any stage in the future," he said, suavely. So he must have been delighted when one of the two MPs rose to agree. "Will you allow me to confirm what you said?" asked John Gort (C, Hemton N) slyly. That sounded safe. Then he added that, while the old A&E department was not being retained, they had been promised instead "a casualty unit, which instead of having nurses would have qualified doctors 24 hours a day!" So not any old A&E, but a superduper new unit staffed by dreamboat doctors, like Chicago's ER or the BBC's Casualty. In other words, outright victory to the blackmail gang! Labour cheered with maniacal delight.

First night

Berkoff struts his over the top stuff

Michael Billington Coriolanus Mermaid Theatre

NO DOUBT who is in charge at the Mermaid: Steven Berkoff reopens the theatre with a Coriolanus which he has directed, designed and in which he stars. And there's the rub: a strong, stylish and visually coherent production gives Berkoff excessive licence to strut his stuff. In New York six years ago I saw the same production with Christopher Walken as a mean and moody Caius Marcius. But Berkoff's Coriolanus becomes a leering, sneering, jack-booted Mussolini-esque fascist. It's one way of seeing the part but it irons out much of the colour and contrast. Even in Shakespeare's least likeable hero there is light and shade. But, signficantly, Berkoff cuts Coriolanus's lines reflecting his concern for a poor man who gave him hospitality and even reverses his hatred of public praise by showing him glorying in hero-worshipping clients. The best feature of a way over the top performance is its sardonic humour. This Coriolanus, accused by the people of being a traitor, goes around silently mouthing the word like some East End bruiser looking for a scrap. A lot, however, depends on one's vantage point. Both Berkoff's performance and the production look much better from far off. After the interval I moved from my front seat, where I could see the plumb line standing out on Berkoff's neck, to the back row where

everything gained in perspective. The set, consisting of six black columns and patterned parquet flooring, suddenly looked impressive. And Berkoff's stylised, choreographed production acquired the shape and rhythm of a rather brutal version of Les Sylphides. His real strength throughout, in fact, lies not in exploration of Shakespeare's sinewy language but in mime and movement. The Roman plebeians whirl like dervishes armed with staves and clubs. Volunna and Virginia in their opening scene deftly sew with invisible thread. Huge doors are evoked through the grunting strain of their being parted. And, at the very end, Berkoff's fascist anti-hero goes to a defiant death as he wrests an imagined sword from his stomach. The overall effect, aided by Mark Ginneth's percussive music, is like a piece of Japanese theatre. The problem, of course, is that Shakespeare makes his points through language. And the only performers to give the verse its due are Faith Brook, as an icily impassioned Volunna, Colin McFarlane as a towering Aufidius and John McNery as a subtle Cominius who at the climax rather creepily puts the peace treaty back in his briefcase. As a piece of staging, the production looks highly disciplined and controlled not least in its marshalling of the excellent ensemble. One just wishes Berkoff showed the same sensitivity to the verse as he does to the volatile possibilities of movement. This review appeared in later editions yesterday.

US scientists find genetic key to fighting skin cancer

Tim Radford Science Editor SCIENTISTS in California have discovered the gene behind the most common form of human cancer. Basal cell carcinoma, a skin cancer which strikes around 32,000 people in Britain every year, stems from a faulty version of a gene first found in a

fruit fly. The news, revealed in the US Journal Science today, opens new opportunities for treatment. "Now that we have identified a gene, researchers may be able to develop drugs that could be applied to the skin for treatment of these cancers," said Ervin Epstein, one of the collaborators and a dermatologist at San Francisco general hospital.

Protests planned over suspect beef products banned at home □ Row risks efforts to ease ban

French fury at fodder exports

FRENCH farmers were preparing to hold nationwide demonstrations as anger grew yesterday over claims that Britain continued to export suspect animal feed after it had been banned at home. Politicians and the press joined in the attack yesterday, with Liberation describing John Major's policies as "unacceptable political cynicism". But Whitehall reacted angrily yesterday to claims that British firms exported tainted meat and bone meal to other European Union countries. Downing Street dismissed it as "a ridiculous and damaging story" which could hinder efforts to resolve the beef war. With ministers working

frantically to produce a framework deal ahead of next weekend's Florence summit, officials insisted the European Commission had always known its policies on such products since the late 1980s. Disclosures on British feed exports, which Liberation said amounted to more than 3,000 tonnes in January this year, could force a rethink of President Jacques Chirac's recent demands for more understanding of the British position and support for the partial lifting of a ban on beef derivatives. French opposition accusations that the government has been complacent have poisoned the atmosphere in parliament. The agriculture minister, Philippe Vasseur, has blamed France's former Socialist government, which fell in 1983, for failing to carry out strict controls on imports of British beef and feed.

But Mr Vasseur has now confirmed that imports of suspect animal feed from Britain doubled after the British ban on their domestic use. This led the Socialists' former budget minister, Michel Charasse, to accuse Gaullist governments of failing in their duty, although France was the first to ban British beef. "I find it absolutely amazing that Britain has the cheek to knock at Europe's door while asking us to accept its filth," Mr Charasse said. The row erupted after the journal, Nature, yesterday highlighted the pattern of British exports of meat and bone meal at the end of the 1980s. In June 1988, the British government banned the use of ruminant-derived protein in ruminant food. Significantly, in 1988, British exports doubled — and

exports to France increased enormously. In the same year, however, France then banned the import of British animal-based feed unless destined for non-ruminants, and in 1990, France banned the use of meat and bone meal in cattle feed — so British exports to France fell sharply again. But there the arguments begin. Ground-up dead sheep and cattle could still be fed to pigs and poultry, in Britain and abroad. So it could still be exported, and what importers used it for was up to them. As the British ban in 1988 caused prices to plummet, the French believe that cheap feed was snapped up in France. Animal feed labels are not very specific. EU law requires only the statement that the contents contain "products of animal origin".

Le Monde Vache folle : la Grande-Bretagne a exporté assivement des farines animales contaminées La France a été l'acheteur principal de ces aliments pour bétail. Tally Ho! A Le Monde cartoon portrays a cynical Britain



Supporters of Boris Yeltsin sit precariously on top of a bus stop during a rally in central Moscow PHOTOGRAPH DAVID BRACHUK

Tension rises as Russian poll violence flares

David Hearst in Moscow

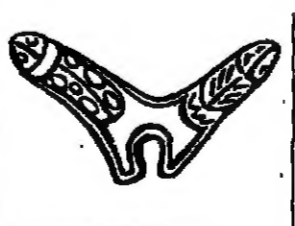
TENSION mounted yesterday in Russia's most violent election campaign since the fall of the Soviet Union, as Chechen rebel separatists appeared poised to disrupt local elections and two politicians were gunned down. A neighbour of Viktor Mosalov, the mayor of Zhukovskiy, a Russian aerospace research town, found him shot on the stairs outside his home. In Kemerovo, Vladimir Oberdorter, a local secretary of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's Liberal Democratic Party, was shot in the head by a man who had stopped to buy cigarettes in a kiosk. The attacks follow a bomb explosion on Tuesday in the Moscow metro, which killed four passengers and severely injured 17. Meanwhile, separatists in Chechnya reacted with fury to Moscow's apparent acquiescence to a decision by loyalist Chechens to hold elections in Grozny on Sunday, in breach of an agreement reached in Nazran earlier this week. Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, the leader of the Chechen rebels, said that any attempt to couple local elections to the national poll, also on Sunday, would "provoke a response". Last night, Russian officials were desperately trying to keep the Nazran agreement on track. Under the deal, Russia promised to hold elections in Chechnya after federal troops had been withdrawn. Grigory Yavlinsky, the leading democratic challenger to President Boris Yeltsin said Chechnya was once again on the verge of war. Gennady Zyuganov, the main communist challenger, blamed Mr Yeltsin's policies for the wave of violence. "Unfortunately, we pay for these policies with someone's blood every day," he said. Mr Zyuganov claimed that he had practically won the election, saying that two-thirds of the country sup-

ported the ideals of "national patriotism and social justice". After the metro blast, Mr Yeltsin said the act "belonged to the forces of the past" — a reference to the communists. The pre-election claims of both candidates in a race that is bound to be tight is already putting pressure on the officials of the Central Election Commission. The national organisation has already shown its loyalty to Mr Yeltsin but the threat of fraud will be greatest at a local level. Pressure on officials who conduct the count at Russia's 93,000 polling stations started in January this year, after the communists swept to victory in parliamentary elections. The prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, said "the corresponding conclusions" would be drawn about regional officials in areas where the communists won. The communists are sending 180,000 observers — two to each polling station — to check the count. Yesterday, the organisation supporting Mr Yeltsin said they would send five to each polling station. Presidential supporters in the upper house of parliament recently killed a bill by democratic deputies to establish a politically neutral observer presence in polling stations. Nikolai Petrov of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace said: "The capacity for falsification is unlimited." Mr Petrov said the communists will try to improve the result in their heartlands in the knowledge that pro-Yeltsin regional officials will cheat even more. "It's not risky to falsify, because no one has been punished for it in the past," he said. The climate of fear has been fuelled by an effective campaign run by Mr Yeltsin to link Stalinist atrocities to today's Communist Party. After years of official neglect of the victims of the Gulag, a memorial was unveiled to victims in Magadan, and a statue was erected to Tsar Nicholas II, who was killed by the Bolsheviks.

Sex and the prehistoric tool

Maeve Kennedy Heritage Correspondent

SEX was regarded as just as much fun in prehistoric times as it is today, according to a British archaeologist who has reinterpreted ancient objects believed to have been spear straighteners and figures of women giving birth as dildos and women masturbating. Timothy Taylor attacks the belief that sex in prehistoric times was purely for reproduction or of ritual importance. The obvious interpretation, that sex was also for enjoyment, and that the objects were erotic, has been missed. One Ice Age specimen, from the Gorge d'Enfer in France, is carved as two penises set at an angle — "just like a modern 'double'



A spear straightener...

dildo," Mr Taylor writes in the July issue of British Archaeology. A gold penis decoration found with a skeleton which seems to have been buried face down in the earth with penis erect, in an early Copper Age grave at Varna, Bulgaria. "The value of the material suggests the object was meant to be seen." A recumbent figure of a Neolithic woman from Hagar Qim in Malta, interpreted by another archaeologist as a woman on the point of giving birth, could only be seen that way by a society accustomed to hospital births, Mr Taylor insists. "The Hagar Qim woman is not giving birth at all. She is masturbating, with one hand languidly supporting her head."

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Thatcher scorns Major with Euro cash gift

continued from page 1 withdrawing their support unless ministers capitulated in a local hospital row. Sir John Gort, veteran MP for Hendon North, and Harrow East's Hugh Dykes, apologised for the way in which their supposedly discreet coup ended up receiving front

page publicity. But they were in the dog-house for undermining Mr Major's authority for something as parochial as the saving of a casualty unit at Edgware hospital. Both Mr Major and the Health Secretary, Stephen Dorrell, denied succumbing

to blackmail. "There is no possibility of the Government responding to approaches of that sort," the prime minister told the Commons. Few MPs believed him. Rebels ostracised, page 3; Politics, page 9; Leader comment, page 16

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The Guardian Judge places 11 'New S in slab

Safety first lake crowd

Guardian Offer Labor win over 'IRA

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Judge places 11-year-old under supervision order 'New start' for boy in slab killing case

Martin Walker

AN 11-YEAR-OLD boy who killed an elderly woman by toppling a concrete slab from a tower block was given a fresh, but closely supervised, start in life yesterday by a senior judge, with the approval of his victims.

Although convicted of manslaughter, the boy was spared a detention order, which Lord Justice Potter said risked bringing him into contact with "some pretty unruly children" and upsetting a new start which had already seen a "dramatic" change in his behaviour.

At Leeds crown court, the boy, who cannot be named for legal reasons, was placed on a three-year supervision order. The judge said that he was well aware of "proper public concern" over the tragedy at Grayson Heights, Leeds, but that any case involving a defendant aged only 10 at the time of the manslaughter posed a "real sentencing problem".

The judge emphasised the severity of the tragedy at the 12-storey tower block in the suburb of Kirkstall, Edna Condie, aged 74, was killed instantly when the 50lb slab hit her as she returned to Grayson Heights after a shopping trip with her husband George and daughter Jan.

"The death of Mrs Condie was a terrible and tragic event which came literally from out of the sky," said Lord Justice Potter. "It has caused terrible distress to Mr Condie and all the Condie family."

Addressing the chubby, crewcut boy directly, he said: "You may not have understood everything that has gone on here, but you do understand that there are now a lot of people taking a very serious interest in you, because of this very serious thing that has happened."

The boy whispered "Yes", repeating the word when the judge asked him to confirm that he would accept the instructions of a senior social worker who will visit him twice weekly, liaise with his mother and stepfather — described by the judge as "decent, concerned and co-operative parents" — and monitor his progress at school.

Graham Stowe, solicitor for the boy, said that the family had moved five miles from Kirkstall after the tragedy, and that the boy had flourished after transferring from a special school into mainstream education.

He had also ceased to have anything to do with two other

boys on the roof at the time of the tragedy, which came during a summer holiday spell when other children, including several older ones, had played "dare" games on the roof and had thrown bottles, stones and other material to the ground.

Lord Justice Potter said that he had been left in no doubt that the boy was easily influenced and anxious to impress, and that one other boy in particular had led him on.

The court heard that George Condie had expressed sorrow for the boy and felt no malice towards him.

Detective Chief Inspector Bob Browell, who led the investigation, said after the hearing that he was satisfied that the matter had come to court, had been fully considered and a sentence had been passed.

Mr Stowe said after the hearing: "It may be that those who do not know the background would say that this boy has got off lightly, but those who have been in court and heard the facts do not take that view."



Touch of glass... Robert Benewick, a professor at Sussex university, shows off some of his collection of 500 milk bottles dating from 1890 PHOTOGRAPH: ROGER BAMBER

Safety first after lake drownings

Martin Walker

POLICE and park staff are to draw up new safety measures at a deep lake where two "gallant and selfless" men died in icy water as they tried to rescue a drowning schoolgirl.

The move follows a call yesterday by West Yorkshire coroner David Hinchcliff after an inquest heard warning notices and lifebuoys had been ripped down by vandals at Hemsworth water park, near Wakefield, where 11-year-old Tracey Pattison fell through thin ice on the 26ft deep lake last December.

Off-duty firefighter Mick Mee, aged 48, and retired shopkeeper Jack Crawshaw, 51, died trying to save her. Mr Hinchcliff recorded a verdict of misadventure on the three victims.

Mr Hinchcliff said the emergency services and park staff should prepare new emergency measures, including a review of personnel in the park. The inquest heard that the usual four-strong team of staff had been on Christmas time off on December 28 when the three died.

Pathologist Clare McDonald said the three died from cardiac arrest in the minus

2C water, in which maximum survival time was estimated at 12 minutes. Attempts to resuscitate them continued for five hours at Pontefract general infirmary.

Group maintenance manager Peter Hardaker said he had left the lake unsupervised while on his lunch break.

He was trained in first-aid, but the complexities of rescue on ice-bound water had not been part of the course.

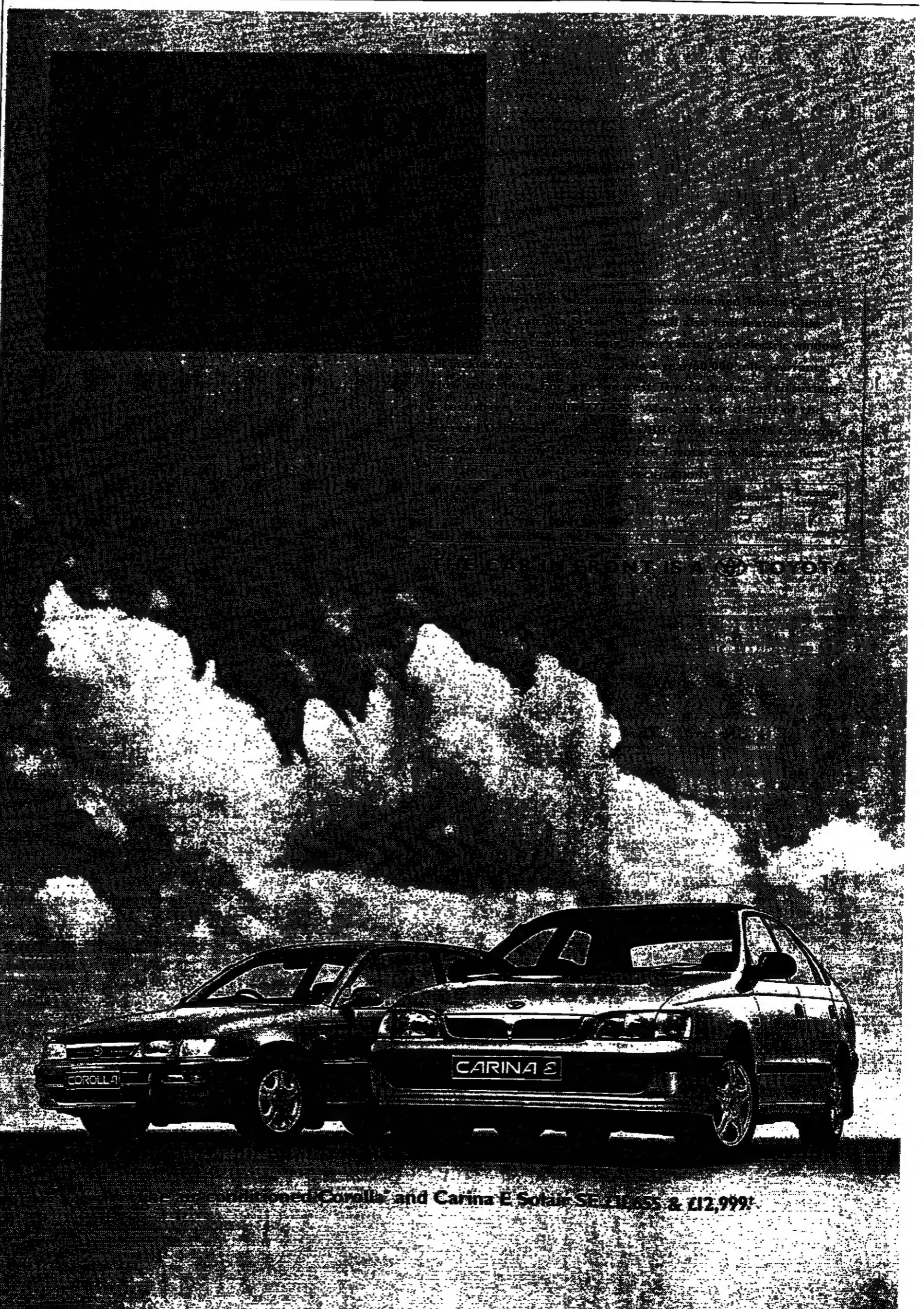
He told the inquest that six ice warning signs had been wrecked and two lifebuoys flung far out on to the ice.

In a written statement, Tracey's schoolfriend, Gemma Holland, also 11, said she was waiting a dog which slipped its lead and ran on to the ice.

"Tracey said she was going for the dog, I told her not to, I heard her shout 'Help' and when I looked round she was in the water and the ice had broken."

Mr Hinchcliff said: "This is a tragedy of the most appalling proportions in which I have had to consider the gallantry, heroism and selfless actions of these men."

Mr Mee's widow, Liz, said after the hearing: "Safety round lakes like Hemsworth should be improved so that the tragedy affecting us cannot claim any more families."



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Labour MPs win damages over claim of 'IRA support'

LABOUR MPs Clare Short and Kevin McNamara yesterday won substantial damages and apologies in the High Court for an article which claimed they were "well known for their support of Sinn Fein/IRA and a united republican Ireland".

The Guardian took their comments in June 1995 from a press release issued by Stuart Sexton, Conservative Party candidate in the Northern Ireland constituency of North Down, and Paul Megarity, his election agent.

Geoffrey Bindman, representing the MPs, told Mr Justice French: "This comment asserted that Ms Short and Mr McNamara supported the IRA, and implied therefore that they supported a movement which promoted political terrorism in Northern Ireland."

He said that Mr Sexton and Dr Megarity now accepted that the MPs had never supported the IRA or any party promoting terrorism and the Guardian had already acknowledged this before the action began.

"In fact, both Ms Short and Mr McNamara have maintained total public opposition to the use of terrorist violence throughout their parliamentary careers," said Mr Bindman.

He said the three parties were now apologising unreservedly in open court "for any distress and embarrassment that the comments in the article and the press release may have caused".

The MPs had accepted damages and were happy that the parties admitted that there was no foundation for the comments and that their reputations had been "vindicated".



Poverty lesson . . . Peter Lilley speaking on welfare reform and Christian values at Southwark cathedral, south London

PHOTOGRAPH BY MARTIN ARDLES

Lilley challenges 'poor getting poorer' claim in sermon on poverty

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

MINISTERS have commissioned research which they will use in the run-up to the general election to counter the accusation that the poor have got poorer under the Conservatives, Peter Lilley, Social Security Secretary, yesterday disclosed.

The findings "challenge any contention that those on low earnings generally saw their earnings fall", Mr Lilley said in a speech on welfare reform and Christian values at Southwark cathedral, south London.

The minister, a practising Anglican, used the speech to justify in a Christian context his approach to relief of poverty. The Church, he argued, had a right to speak out on poverty and help the needy, but it had no mission to seek greater equality in society.

"We are all equal in the sight of God and before the law. But I searched my con-

cordance in vain — with the possible exception of the parable of the vineyard — for suggestions that we must pursue equality and award equal incomes for equal effort, risk or skill," Mr Lilley said.

The speech followed a recent report by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, arguing that millions of people could be pulled out of poverty by increasing their state benefits by £15 a week.

Mr Lilley said a £15-a-week increase would cost £6.5 billion and mean an extra 1.2 million people would become entitled to benefit and "pushed into dependency". The new research, due to be published shortly, has been ordered by Mr Lilley to challenge assertions — based on "snapshot" official data — that the gap between the rich and the poor has widened greatly since 1978 and that the number of people living in poverty has tripled.

The study has looked at the national insurance records of a sample of men aged 25-4 for the period 1978-1983. According to Mr Lilley, it shows that 90 per cent of the lowest-earning tenth of the sample in 1978 had higher earnings in real terms by 1983, compared to less than 75 per cent of the sample as a whole.

Moreover, the earnings of the lowest-earning fifth rose 42 per cent over the period compared to an increase of 33 per cent enjoyed by the highest-earning fifth.

Mr Lilley said about three in four of those leaving jobs were back in employment within a year. "The greatest inequality observed by the unemployment studies . . . has more to do with greater mobility up and down a wider span of earnings and in and out of work."

Chris Smith, shadow social security secretary, said many of Mr Lilley's remarks had shown a "complete divorce from reality".

Paul Goggins, national co-ordinator of the Church Action on Poverty pressure group, said: "This speech was billed as 'Christian thinking, but it seems to have more to do with party politics than real theology."

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Divorce bill 'salvaged'

Rebecca Smithers, Political Correspondent

THE Government was last night confident of having salvaged the troubled Family Law Bill's divorce reforms, after ministers accepted a package of concessions demanded by Labour in return for its support at the third reading in the Commons next Monday.

Gary Streeter, minister in the Lord Chancellor's Department, stressed the Government was backing the amendments to strengthen the bill — notably on issues of domestic violence and provisions for children.

"No deals have been sought or done. Our object is to build a consensus. The House must decide," he said.

The Government has agreed to accept three amendments tabled yesterday by Labour which require the right of children to be represented by a third party in court proceedings, the right of Dame Jill Knight proposing a clause allowing couples to "conscientiously object" to the new divorce law by insisting that their marriage was different from others.

late on Labour's demands for an early introduction of "pension splitting", whereby divorced couples will be entitled to a share of their partner's pension.

Last night Labour's legal affairs spokesman Paul Boateng warned the Government that it could still not rely on the party's support on Monday, when it would be presenting its full demands to ministers.

The Government is aware the bill remains vulnerable on amendments involving issues of religious conviction or conscience, where Tory rebels could oppose it in a free vote.

Mr Streeter said the Government was willing to look favourably on a "religious beliefs" clause, if it is tabled, allowing a court to refuse a divorce if a family is plunged into hardship or ostracised by its religious community in contested cases.

But he made clear the Government would not accept an amendment proposed by Dame Jill Knight proposing a clause allowing couples to "conscientiously object" to the new divorce law by insisting that their marriage was different from others.

Labour reform of lottery could include cap on profits

Andrew Culf, Media Correspondent

THE £1 million-a-week profits of Camelot, the operator of the National Lottery, could be capped under a Labour government, the party said yesterday.

Jack Cunningham, the shadow national heritage secretary, floated a series of possible reforms, including increasing from five to eight the number of good causes receiving cash.

Camelot, heavily criticised last week after announcing pre-tax profits of £77.5 million, was warned the rules are likely to change at the end of its seven year licence period. "We will look for a change, perhaps to a 'not for profit' organisation to run the lottery or a cap on profits," Mr Cunningham said.

Speaking at a Fabian seminar in London, he unveiled the preliminary findings of Labour's National Lottery advisory group, due to make recommendations in the autumn. The new good causes could run as time-limited, cash-limited projects. Money could be used to train teachers in the advantages of new technologies, help pensioners insulate their houses and give schoolchildren access to musical instruments and tuition.

Other possible reforms by Labour include separating the two functions performed by Peter Davis, director general of the regulator Oflot, who chooses the operator and regulates its activities, and allowing bookmakers to take bets on which lottery numbers will be drawn.

Mr Cunningham said it was essential that more of the lottery's profits went back to the people who bought the tickets instead of into Camelot's coffers.

Cook ready to trade sovereignty for progress

John Palmer in Brussels

LABOUR is ready to trade Britain's sovereignty for more effective European Union decisions where this is in the interests of the British people, the shadow foreign secretary, Robin Cook, said in Brussels yesterday.

In a declaration of Labour's pro-European convictions, Mr Cook said "the failed Tory project of confrontation has to be replaced with a culture of co-operation."

He also distanced Labour even further from the Government's beef war tactic of obstruction in the EU.

Mr Cook said that if Mr Major returned from the Florence EU summit without a firm date for the lifting of the beef ban the blocking of EU decisions would be seen as a disastrous failure.

Mr Cook, delivering a John Smith memorial lecture, claimed that responsibility for lack of popular enthusiasm in Britain for the "European project" lay squarely with the Tory policy on confrontation in Brussels.

"What the public wants is a government that can handle our relations with the rest of Europe, not one that deals in heroic failure," he said.

In remarks which will be studied by other EU governments for what they reveal about Labour's attitude to the current Maastricht treaty review, Mr Cook said that "interdependence" in the modern world was more valuable than "independence".

He continued: "It might be necessary to trade part of national sovereignty if it is in the national interest. Sovereignty is not total but relative."

Accusing Conservatives of tunnel vision, he said that while a loss of national sovereignty might be seen as a threat by national politicians, "losing some of that sovereign power might be in the interests of the people."



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Little local difficulties

CASUALTY OUT OF PICTURE AND DOWN

999 call reveals PM plig

What will people make of as the year 3000 approaches? They will wonder what we think us feeble creatures

Beavis Hillier

A little local difficulty in north London ends in Government climbdown as Tories show growing appetite for rebellion



Edgware casualty unit, relieved after a threatened Tory revolt



Threatening gestures... Four Tories, from left, Sir George Gardiner, Terry Dicks, George Walden and Sir Julian Critchley have all talked of bringing down the Government. But David Trimble, right, leader of the nine-strong Ulster Unionists, is the man who really has his finger on the election trigger

Michael White Political Editor

OPPOSITION MPs chortled and Conservative loyalists mouthed audible obscenities yesterday at the sight of Sir John Gort and Hugh Dykes holding ministers over a barrel to defend the casualty department at their local hospital in traffic-choked north London.

Emergency treatment for Edgware shows deals with ministers go on all the time. But are the numbers of Tory backbenchers behaving badly getting out of hand?

Answers from Mr Dorrell again this month, the pair steadily raised the stakes in private exchanges, culminating in the ultimatum, revealed in yesterday's Daily Telegraph. Though ministers insist the final package agreed in 24 hours' intense negotiation on Tuesday night had been in the works — they never talk under duress — the two MPs had obviously won concessions.

On the pro-European side, Sir Julian Critchley said he might not support Mr Major in a vote of confidence. Buckingham's George Walden, also due to step down at the election, weakly mouthed similar sentiments of disdain over the xenophobic populism gripping the party.

999 case reveals PM plight

Alex Bellos on a hospital rebellion which highlighted Major's perilous Commons position

THE campaign to save Edgware hospital, in north London, has long been a thorn in the Government's side. It has contributed to the downfall of one health secretary, and has now dramatically highlighted the perilous state of John Major's Commons majority.

voted against the Government. Mr Dykes was harassed for merely abstaining, and on one occasion was booed out of a local meeting.

In order to save face in the growing crisis, a management team was drafted in during July to re-shape the health management structure covering the north-west London area, including Barnet.

In December Mr Dorrell agreed to meet HOOH campaigners. He told them again he could not reverse what his predecessor had done, but would look into the issue.

Last Wednesday, the HOOH committee went to the Commons to have a meeting with Sir John. Ms Brown said she was surprised when four other MPs, including Mr Dorrell, turned up. She said: "He told us that the health authority was looking to improve minor accident services. We said rubbish. There are no proposals. We said he was misinformed. We were applying the thumbscrews."

Mr Dykes said yesterday that he and Sir John had now won an assurance from Mr Dorrell that a "specially tailored" accident unit would be retained to serve the hospital's catchment area, manned 24 hours a day by qualified doctors with full medical back-up required to cope with emergencies.

Mr Dykes said: "I am delighted with what has been achieved... this has been a massive and prolonged campaign and I am proud to have been involved."

A critical point in the battle came last May when Sir John

Leader comment, page 8

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Cocky entertainer tunes into his public

James Meek in Moscow reports on why the ultra-nationalist showman Zhirinovskiy is giving Russian pollsters a headache

THE heat filled the nearly empty square, parching the weeds between the flagstones and roasting the bandmen as they shifted the weight of their silver tubas, uncomfortable in their crumpled blue jackets. A ragged column of stupefied-looking teenage policemen shuffled into place. Onlookers began to wander up. Small-town Russia was waiting for Vladimir Zhirinovskiy.

Yeltsin. If we voted for Zhirinovskiy we'd all be in the army," they said. Voters for Mr Zhirinovskiy are like baby pigeons or lottery winners; you know they must exist, but you never seem to come across them. The reluctance to admit supporting the chauvinist showman and his wild ideology gives Russia's insecure pollsters nightmares as the first round of presidential elections approaches. Mr Zhirinovskiy is supposed to come fifth. But the pollsters admit to a wide margin of error. That margin has a name: Vladimir Wolfovich Zhirinovskiy. "I am the third force," he said last week. "There is no other." By the time he walked on to the improvised stage in Orekhovo Zuyevo, to the band's rendition of "The Slav Woman's Farewell, the traditional march for soldiers heading off to war, the square had filled with about 2,000 people of all ages.

Mr Zhirinovskiy, tieless in a pale blue shirt and cream jacket, was sheltered from the sun by a European Union umbrella held by an aide. He began slowly, quietly. Then, after a couple of minutes, the volume and pitch increased dramatically and the juke-box of his brain began to play a random selection of popular tunes. "Russia does have an enemy: the United States of America! Our main enemy! It's preparing war against us. Nato troops will be at the borders of Russia by autumn. One reason for his reduced popularity is that many of his ideas have been adopted by his opponents. Odium for Nato is standard in the camps of President Yeltsin and the Communist leader, Gennady Zyuganov. Mr Yeltsin's 1994 decision to invade Chechnia "We respect Vladimir Wolfovich very much, but we are going to vote for Yeltsin," said Nina, aged 49, a businesswoman in the crowd. "Zhirinovskiy is out of the ordinary. The things he says, the way he behaves on television — it's entertainment."

Alexander Semyonov, an engineer at a local factory who has not been paid for six months, said he would not vote for Mr Yeltsin, but could not decide between Grigory Yavlinsky, leader of the liberal Yabloko party, Mr Zyuganov and Mr Zhirinovskiy. Mr Semyonov said he had voted for Mr Zhirinovskiy in 1993 and Mr Yavlinsky in 1995. He was now swinging back to the nationalists, but did not take Mr Zhirinovskiy's warmongering rhetoric seriously. "I don't want to have a gun in my hand or wash my feet in the Indian Ocean. Zhirinovskiy is just playing politics."

'Is there another country which has more bandits than soldiers? That's democracy for you'

was taken under the influence of Mr Zhirinovskiy's popularity, and while Mr Zhirinovskiy now calls for northern Kazakhstan and southern and eastern Ukraine to be "returned" to Russia, Mr Zyuganov expects to get back both countries in their entirety.

Mr Zhirinovskiy still wants to give the secret police powers to round up suspected criminals and shoot them en masse. His economic programme consists of raking together a money mountain of \$500 billion (\$238 billion) from esoteric sources. Voters have watched him half-strangling a woman MP in parliament, throwing juice in a rival's face during a television talk show, nuzzling Cicciolina, the Italian porn star, and indulging in sleazy banquets featuring his own brand of vodka and champagne. Not all the electorate is put off by this behaviour. Vladimir Borisov, an engineer, said of the juice-throwing episode: "He did it openly. They do a lot of filthy things secretly, behind people's backs." Mr Zhirinovskiy has lost some confidence since his halcyon days two years ago when, after winning a quarter

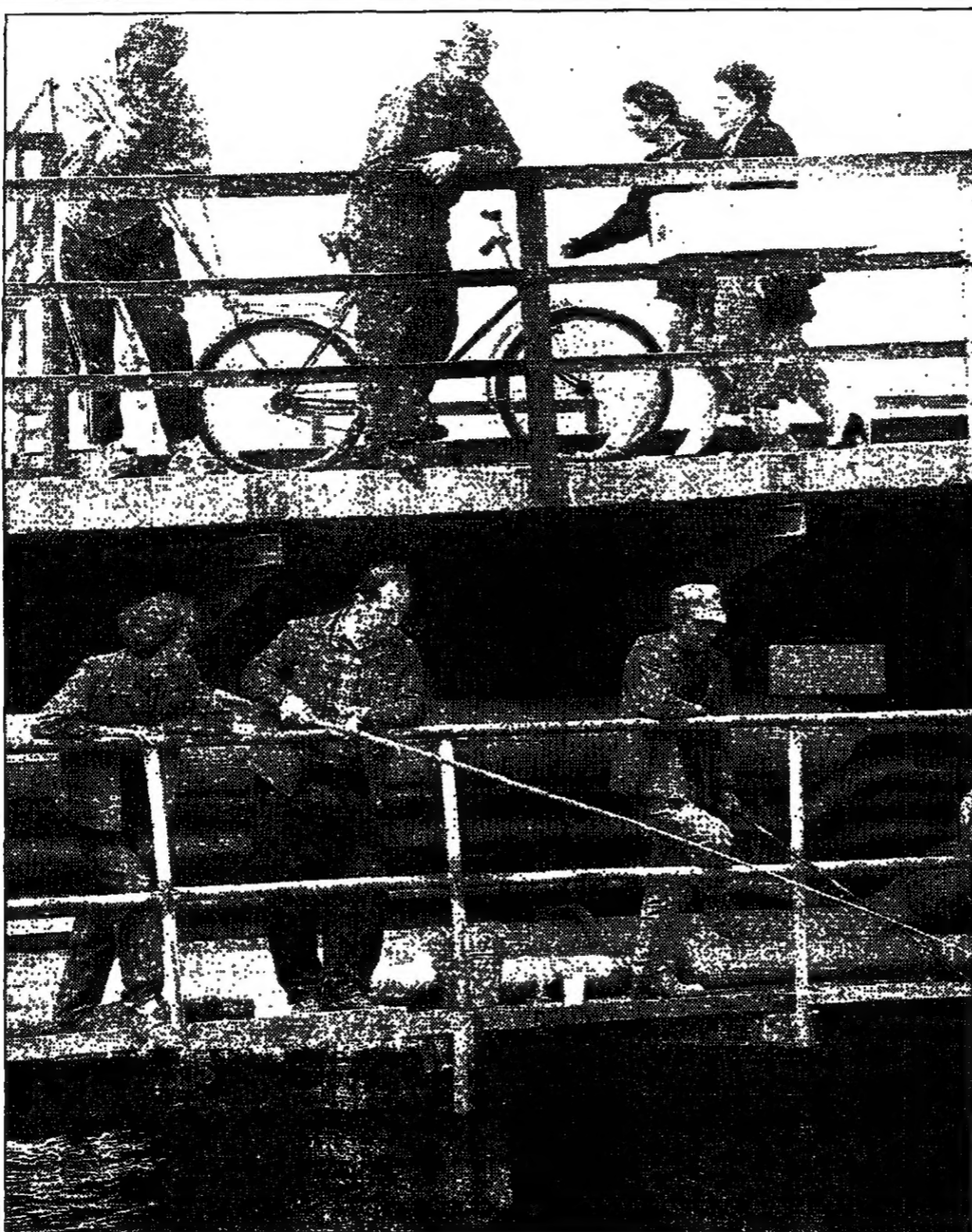
of the popular vote in parliamentary elections, he rampaged across Europe like a rock star intoxicated with his first big contract. Terms such as "compromise" and "power-sharing" feature more often in his speeches now, but it is difficult to know the real Mr Zhirinovskiy: the hatred-preaching demagogic brawler with a touch of Mussolini-style fascist camp, or the alternative comedian mocking the whole business of politics. Paradoxically for a man who wants to be a dictator, he is the only candidate who dares to challenge the victim complex of the Russian voter. "It's time to stop looking for the guilty ones. You're guilty yourselves. Each of you is guilty," he said to the crowd. "You go to the elections and you give them power and they start to deceive you and you start to think what's all this? It's you!"

Unions combat Kohl's cuts

Ian Traynor in Bonn

UP TO half a million Germans are expected to take to the streets and parks of Bonn tomorrow to vent their anger at Chancellor Helmut Kohl's austerity drive in one of the biggest protests witnessed by the post-war republic. As trade union leaders warn of strike waves and industrial unrest surpassing the riots in France last winter, Mr Kohl's dilemma is forcing through budget cuts to meet the criteria for joining a single European currency are made worse by opposition moves to wreck the package in the upper house. Union leaders expect some 250,000 people, and perhaps twice that figure, for tomorrow's mass protest — "For Jobs and Social Justice". Mr Kohl is bent on saving more than \$20 billion this year and next, by cutting unemployment and social security benefits and sick pay, raising the retirement age, freezing child benefit and imposing a two-year pay freeze in the huge public sector. The aim is to avert a worsening public finances crisis and, above all, come in below the public debt and budget deficit ceilings required for entry to the proposed single European currency. But the Kohl scheme faces increasing problems on all fronts. Yesterday, unions and employers agreed an arbitration deal in the months-long public sector pay dispute, awarding the 3.2 million employees a 1.9 per cent pay rise next year and one-off payments of \$130 this year.

The government's insistence on a two-year public sector pay freeze was an integral element of the cuts plan, which will now need revision. Mr Kohl was locked in talks yesterday with the heads of government of Germany's 16 federal states on how to share the burden of the cuts. The states are represented by the upper house or Bundesrat in Bonn, which is controlled by the opposition Social Democrats. Much of the Kohl package can be blocked by the upper house, and regional Social Democrat leaders say they intend to do just that. "The working people can't be disadvantaged," a key regional Social Democrat baron, Gerhard Schroeder, said yesterday. Reinhard Hoepfner, the Social Democrat prime minister of Saxony-Anhalt, said the Kohl package had no chance of passing the Bundesrat. Economic stagnation and plunging tax revenues resulting from the 10 per cent unemployment rate, have also narrowed the government's room for manoeuvre. On Wednesday, Theo Waigel, the finance minister, sought to talk the states into making fiscal austerity legally binding. Mr Waigel, who is the author of the contentious European Union "stability pact" idea, proposed a national stability pact, legally compelling the 16 states and the federal government not to overstep debt and deficit ceilings. The message is that social enforcement about political activists. But he justified the operation as part of the fight against rightwing extremism. But Green Party politicians received a recording of a telephone conversation between Mr Bolle and the intelligence officer, flatly contradicting the minister's statement. It includes a specific reference to "lefties who have longish hair or that kind of outfit".



A better catch... Workers at the bankrupt Gdansk shipyard in Poland go fishing yesterday on the second day of a 48-hour sit-in strike in protest against a government decision to shut the yard. PHOTOGRAPH BY CZAREK SOKOLOWSKI

German politician embroiled in spying row on 'long-haired lefties'

Dennis Staunton in Hamburg

THE island resort of Rügen immortalised by Christopher Isherwood in *Goodbye to Berlin* is at the centre of a spying row that has prompted allegations of a return to the methods of the East German Stasi secret police. Fifty-six tourism workers claim that an intelligence officer from the state government of Mecklenburg asked them to report sightings of "long-haired lefties" on the island. Paul Bolle, director of a spa resort, said: "She asked me to report if politically dubious people appeared on

our camp site. She gave me her own telephone number in the interior ministry. Mr Bolle refused to cooperate. Rudi Gell, the Christian Democrat interior minister in the state capital, Schwerin, said the intelligence officer had never asked for information about political activists. But he justified the operation as part of the fight against rightwing extremism. But Green Party politicians received a recording of a telephone conversation between Mr Bolle and the intelligence officer, flatly contradicting the minister's statement. It includes a specific reference to "lefties who have longish hair or that kind of outfit".

World news in brief

First Lady 'withheld crucial Whitewater documents'

HILLARY CLINTON will be accused of concealing key evidence from federal investigators, according to a report in the Senate committee investigating the Whitewater affair, writes *Jonathan Freedland* in Washington. The allegation marks the most direct charge yet against the first couple. A report in yesterday's New York Daily News claimed Mrs Clinton would be named as the only suspect in the disappearance of legal billing records, which mysteriously surfaced in the White House

private residence in January. The documents — which reveal that Mrs Clinton did 69 hours' work for the Arkansas financial institution at the heart of the Whitewater affair — had been sought by investigators for two years. The Republican-led committee, which is due to deliver its conclusions next week, has interviewed more than 300 aides and White House officials to find out how the documents had come to be in a restricted area of the Clintons' private quarters.

Turkish Cypriots snub the Queen

A COCKTAIL party at the British high commissioner's residence in Cyprus to celebrate the Queen's birthday turned sour after more than 200 of the guests failed to arrive, writes *Chris Drake* in Nicosia. They were all Turkish Cypriots, banned from attending at the last moment by their leader, Rauf Denktaş, in what international diplomats described as a deliberate snub. Armed guards at the crossing point on Nicosia's "Green Line" refused to open the barrier to let the crowd of smartly-dressed businessmen and their wives walk to the Greek Cypriot side for fish and chips and British beer.

Haile Selassie 'murdered'

HAILE SELASSIE'S doctor has said yesterday that the former Ethiopian emperor did not die of natural causes, writes *Alice Martin* in Addis Ababa. He was testifying at a tribunal against the country's former Marxist rulers who are accused of genocide and of murdering the emperor. Dr Asrat Woldeyes described his first visit to Haile Selassie in custody and said there was a mounted machinegun aimed at the emperor's camp bed. "Haile Selassie said he was not sick and did not need a doctor, but his daughter, Princess Tenagne-Work, claimed her father was not sleeping and was refusing food," Dr Asrat said.

Iraq bars arms team again

United Nations arms inspectors were barred yesterday from two more sites near Baghdad, Rolf Ekeus, the head of the UN Special Commission in charge of ridding Iraq of weapons of mass destruction, said.

The team had been barred from two sites on Tuesday and Wednesday. Mr Ekeus said all the facilities had belonged to government bodies which concealed documents or weapons. — Reuters.

Doctor in court

François Mitterrand's former doctor went on trial yesterday, charged with violating his oath of secrecy by revealing that the late French president had had cancer since 1982. — AP.

Activist jailed

A secret Palestinian military tribunal yesterday jailed the human rights activist Eyad Sarraj for another 15 days for

allegedly assaulting a policeman. Mr Sarraj denied assault and drug charges and said he had been beaten since he was detained on Sunday. — AP.

Net profits

In a unique deal, Norwegian journalists yesterday won contractual protection and small cash payments for work published on the Internet and computer databases. — AP.

Burma clampdown

Burma's military government erected hoardings across the country denouncing Aung San Suu Kyi's democracy movement yesterday, as the official media repeated calls for her to stop disturbing the country. — Reuters.

Banger and splash

Ships were alerted and bomb disposal experts rushed to defuse a "bomb" bobbing about in Hong Kong harbour. It turned out to be an enormous sausage. The South China Morning Post said yesterday. — Reuters.

Jailed Ershad brews freedom deal as coalition price

AGENCIES in Dhaka yesterday from Wednesday's election, the Awami League, whose anti-corruption campaign brought down the previous government earlier this year, extended its lead. But it was still unclear if the party, led by Sheikh Hasina, would win enough seats to control parliament or whether it would have to try to form a coalition. As more results emerged



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US sanctions loom as congress clears president

Colombia drops Samper charges

Mary Matheson in Bogotá

IN A MIDNIGHT vote, Colombia's congress decided to halt impeachment proceedings against President Ernesto Samper over accusations that he accepted money from drug traffickers. The decision is almost certain to bring swift retaliation from the United States, which had threatened to impose sanctions if Mr Samper were absolved.

In a vote of more than two to one on Wednesday night, the 164 representatives judged there was insufficient evidence formally to accuse Mr Samper of taking \$4 million from the Cali drug cartel for his 1994 election campaign.

The decision came as no surprise in Colombia, where the congressional investigation was largely viewed as a farce. "Those who absolved the president are politicians who received money from the cartels and committed the same crimes as the president," said Ingrid Belancourt,

a member of congress and a fierce critic of Mr Samper within his own Liberal Party. Twenty-four members of congress are under investigation over ties to drug trafficking, and seven are already behind bars. In addition, several received money from the Liberal Party central campaign funds. To condemn the president would be to condemn themselves.

Mr Samper, who said he was "satisfied" with the vote, must now try to regain political legitimacy. "It doesn't matter what the congress decides, the political crisis will continue," said Andrés Franco Vasco, a lecturer in politics at the Javeriana University in the capital, Bogotá.

Opposition to Mr Samper has grown since January, when his former campaign manager accused him of taking the drug money. Business leaders, some conservative congress members and the Church have stepped up pressure for him to resign. Supporters of the army are also thought to be disgruntled. Businessmen are consider-

ing going on strike to try to bring the country to a halt. The last business strike, in 1957, brought down Colombia's last military dictator.

Mr Samper was expected to make a televised speech late yesterday, outlining a new offensive against drug trafficking and a solution to the political crisis. He may announce a government of national unity. But his critics have made it clear they are unwilling to join a coalition.

He may instead let the people decide if he should stay in power by calling a referendum. Latest opinion polls show 31 per cent think he should stay, and 28 per cent believe he should resign.

Washington's reaction will be crucial. In an election year, the Clinton administration cannot afford to be faint-hearted on drugs. The US has already withdrawn the visas of two top Colombian public officials.

But a harsh reaction from the US government could fuel anti-American sentiment and boost Mr Samper's poll ratings.



Borne free... Juan Carlos Gaviria, the kidnapped brother of the former Colombian president Cesar Gaviria, was freed in return for his captors' passage to Cuba. "His muscles had not moved in two months," a policeman said. PHOTOGRAPH: MEREDITH DAVENPORT

Brazil's poor pay bloody price in battle for land

Garvin O'Toole

WITH his last breath, Oziel Alves Pereira mouthed "MST" — the initials of Brazil's Sem Terra (Landless) Movement — before he became the latest victim in a low-intensity war racking Brazil.

The killing of Pereira and at least 18 other MST demonstrators staging a protest near Marabá in the north-eastern state of Para has become emblematic of a broader struggle over land in Latin America.

Forensic reports suggest the 17-year-old was shot execution-style, at point-blank range, after state police dispersed the protesters.

A local priest denounced the killings as premeditated — a claim strengthened when a man identifying himself as a local farmer alleged on Globo television that landowners had paid police to rid them of squatters.

The massacre in late April has dramatically exposed the contradiction between President Fernando Henrique Cardoso's commitment to social reform — including land distribution — and to modernising the economy. The process of rural modernisation is land intensive — and excludes the rural poor.

Founded 12 years ago, MST is the most well-organised of groups throughout Latin America which have long advocated the occupation of unproductive or idle land as a solution to rural poverty. Its



Other worlds

tractable land use, and the social needs of Latin America's 150 million rural dwellers. MST's rightwing critics deride its efforts as a futile attempt to recreate inefficient subsistence farming.

Outside Brazil, nowhere has the market outlook prevailed more than in Mexico, where deregulation of tenure was one of the sparks that ignited the Chiapas rebellion.

Tension over land has been heightened by the region's broader economic transformation, in particular the removal of import barriers. Indigenous Mexicans face the prospect of eating tortillas made from United States maize, and highland Peruvians already eat potatoes from Europe.

The most dramatic symbol in Brazil of the clash between market and social agendas came in January in the form of decree 1775, which exposes previously demarcated Indian lands to legal claims by rapacious corporations.

Mr Cardoso gave an unequivocal electoral commitment in 1994 to tackle inequality. But Para has fuelled suspicions that his commitment to social reform was merely a footnote to his macroeconomic imperatives.

While the small's pace of social reform may say more about the scale of inequality in Brazil and its political system, the outcry over the massacre has confirmed that the high hopes that accompanied Mr Cardoso's accession have evaporated.

Stung by criticisms, he has doubled the budget for an existing land reform project, dusted off land reform legislation languishing in congress, moved to tackle police impunity and unveiled a social spending package.

But while Mr Cardoso's rediscovery of a social agenda may be the most fitting tribute to Pereira's sacrifice, it is a gesture unlikely to address the irreconcilable clash in the countryside between market and social demands.

• Ten farm workers were killed in a shootout after 300 landless peasants occupied a farm in Maranhao state, northern Brazil, on Monday, a state security official said yesterday. The state governor, Roseana Sarney, said prescriptions aiming to maximise the productivity of ex-

Demarcated Indian areas are exposed to legal claims by rapacious corporations

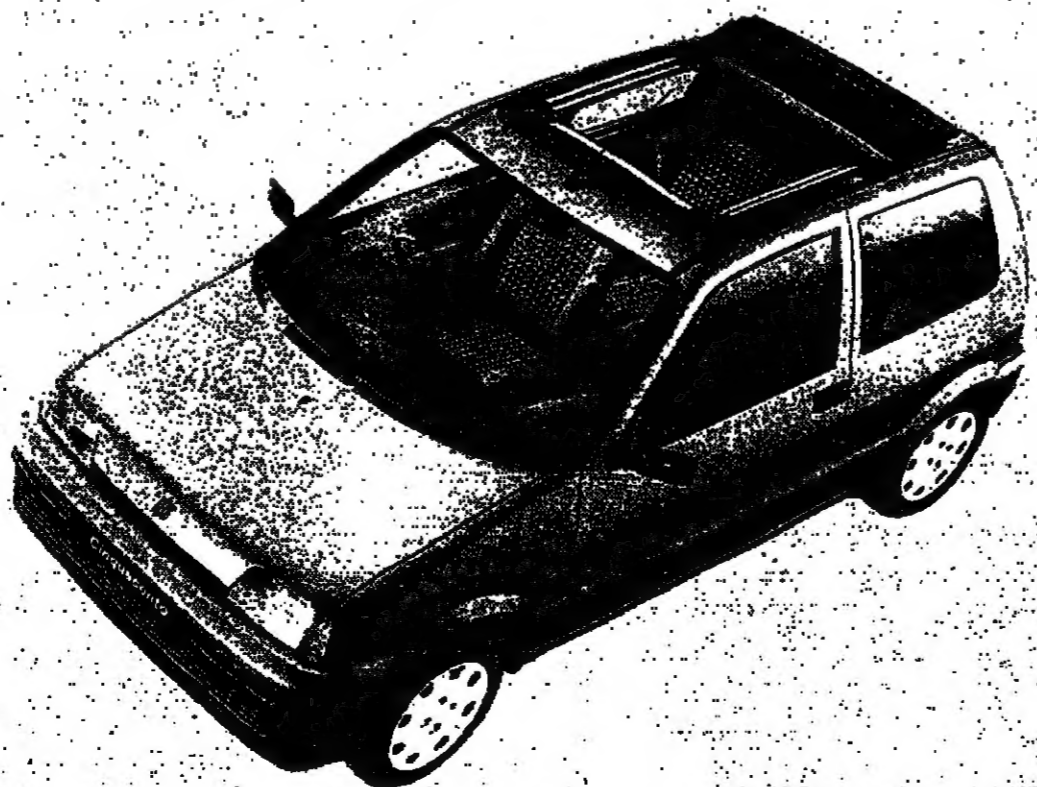
leaders say there are 5 million landless peasants and labourers in Brazil.

The concentration of land in Brazil is staggering: 1 per cent of landowners control 44 per cent of productive farmland, while 83 per cent of farmers eke out a living on 2.6 per cent of the land.

Inequality, epitomised by entrenched landowning elites, has been exacerbated by the emergence of vast estates, spurred by federal incentives, which ostensibly seek to exploit economies of scale for export production. Many, however, serve as a simple hedge against inflation.

The Para massacre occurred in an area dominated by vast mining and livestock projects, laying bare the issue at the heart of the debate over land use — that unchecked commercial development fuels social conflict.

This debate can be seen as a struggle for the soul of agrarian reform between market prescriptions aiming to maximise the productivity of ex-



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When care is a dirty word
Ministers must do more to wipe out child abuse

MINISTERS needed to move on three fronts to resolve the crisis in children's homes. Yesterday dawned with promising headlines of an angry Prime Minister, who had "read the riot act" to cabinet colleagues and was ready to order a national inquiry into abuse in children's homes.

Why the numbers don't add up
Heseltine's audit of Britain is thoroughly worthwhile

MICHAEL HESELTINE was quick to put a political spin on his third white paper on competitiveness yesterday, but he should not have needed to. It is a thoroughly worthwhile and long overdue exercise examining the roots of Britain's strengths and weaknesses.

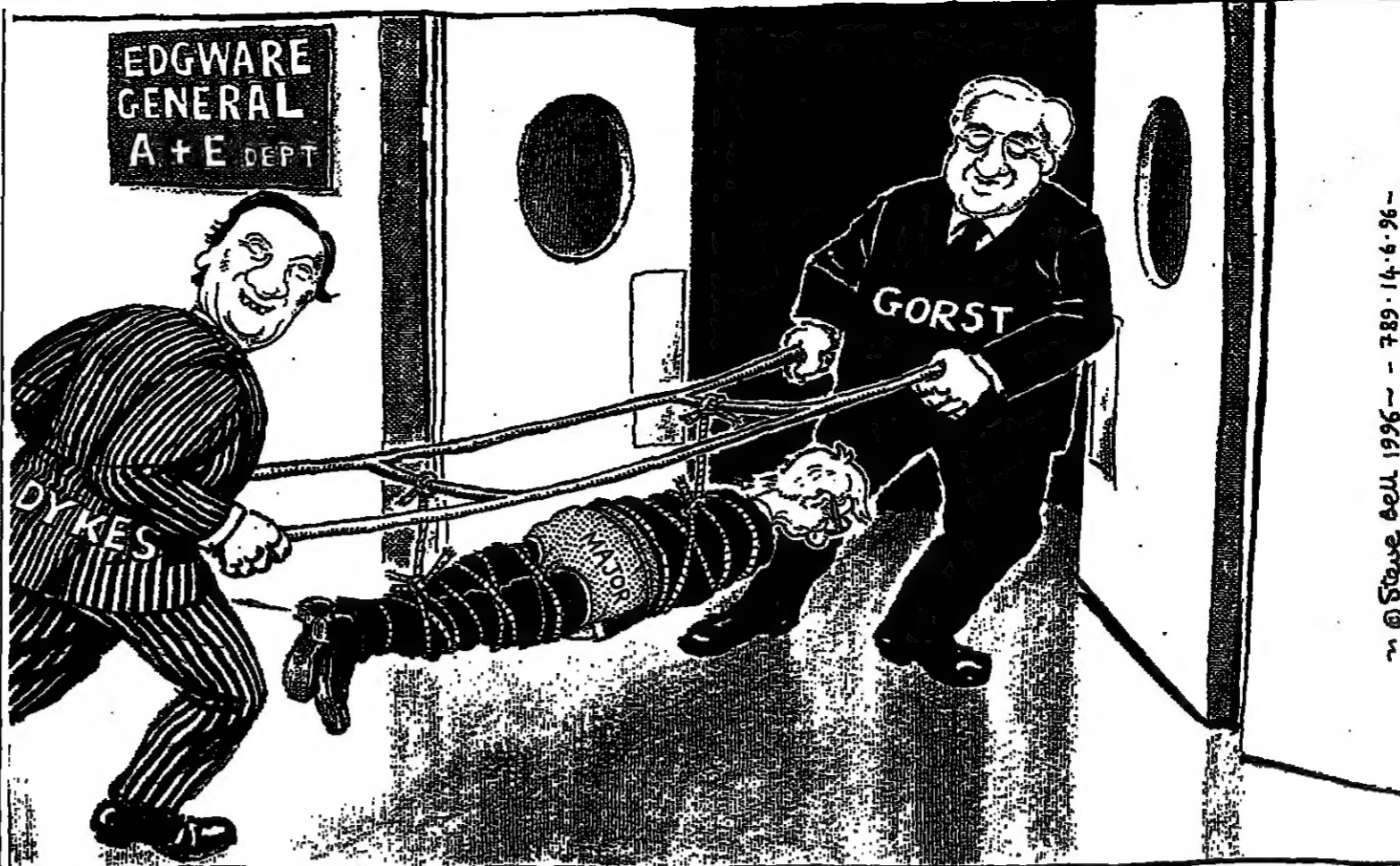
country — which could transform the prospects for small companies. The most contentious part of the exercise is the skills audit, which was rather less complimentary to Britain than the deputy prime minister claimed in the Commons.

The pork barrels of Edgware

A majority of one enables every MP to rule the Government

QUESTION: when is an accident and emergency unit not an accident and emergency unit? Answer: when it is in Edgware. In Edgware, an A&E unit magically becomes a fully-equipped casualty unit with nurses and doctors on hand for 24 hours a day.

attempts to patch up an agreed line, will doubtless be further discredited to an already unravelling government. But isn't it time they all grew up? When a government has a small majority or no majority at all, it has to work harder to get the vote out.



Letters to the Editor

The bill comes in for children

IT SEEMS chilling that every one of the country's leading children's organisations who wrote to you (Letters, June 12) equates minimising distress to children in family break-up with making sure they can "get started on their new lives" within about 12 months.

A lesson in Birtspeak

ANNE Karpf's predictions about the future of Network Radio (Sound off, vision on, June 12) are not what the future holds for radio at the BBC.

radio production is not for trading. And then there are the ultimate quality controllers of the BBC, the teams of radio producers and production staff.

Drinking's coming home

NEVER cease to be astonished at the general ignorance of the dangers and ramifications of abusing alcohol (Angry Venables turns on 'traitors', June 12).

Contrary to belief, alcohol is actually a depressant, not a stimulant; it is much like the drugs used to put you to sleep for an operation in hospital.

Job prospect

YOU correctly report the Civil Service's goal of appealing to the best graduates from all sources (Lure of Whitehall, top jobs calls for university elite, June 13).

Mr Major's uncharitable act

IT IS no surprise that John Major's and Virginia Bottomley's concerns about lottery funding for gay and lesbian groups accurately expressed their Jewish bigotry.

LAST November, attacks on the National Lottery Charities Board were centred around black and refugee groups: this time the Prime Minister has added as targets gay men, lesbian, bisexual, prostitutes etc.

Pay day

THERE is a growing conviction in the churches that the millennium should be marked by a concerted effort to reduce significantly, if not to remit, the crippling debts of the poorer countries of our world (IMF holds gold key for Third World, June 10).

I would not want you to conclude that I am so naive as to think that a situation that leads to the spread of disease and ignorance, hunger and death? When the IMF opposes debt remission because it might lead to future "reckless borrowing", it ignores the fact that a significant part of the existing debt burden has been caused by reckless lending.

A Country Diary

NORTHUMBERLAND: Heeding the tides, we crossed to Lindisfarne with the intention of being marooned on this desolate for the obligatory five hours. Reversing the usual tourist ritual, we thus escape the visitors, who come in coaches and stay here only when the causeway is clear.

beaches. Emmanuel serves as a warning to ships of the rocks around Holy Island; past this point you go into dunes and twisting tracks, bordered by flailing tresses of marram grass. A lone birdwatcher squatted, peering through binoculars, and a fulmar patrol swooped within a few feet of my face.

Suffering, sin and dinosaurs

CAN Paul Davies (Letters, June 11) be serious? He states the Christian dogma that "we can be free of suffering through the redemption offered by Jesus Christ".

much earnest handwringing about the nature of scientific and religious truth. Yet the essential humanity that connects science and religion has been neglected. Both are characterised by pilgrimage, community and the thrill of discovery.

VERONICA HEATH

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.

Diary Dan Atkinson

KIM BOWELLS, one-time mega-militant mine-picket... turned chronically-capitalistic Friedman-industrialist...

Class wars unique to Britain

Commentary Peter Preston

HERE is one interesting fact that unites France, Singapore, Germany, Japan and the US (lined up against Britain today in the educational skills department)...

stalled the change that was Chirac without thought of changing its schooling and skilling in any meaningful way. Germany and Japan are models of consistency...

It didn't, of course, last. She told a special Cabinet meeting last year that education remained a shot in the polling foot for the Tories...

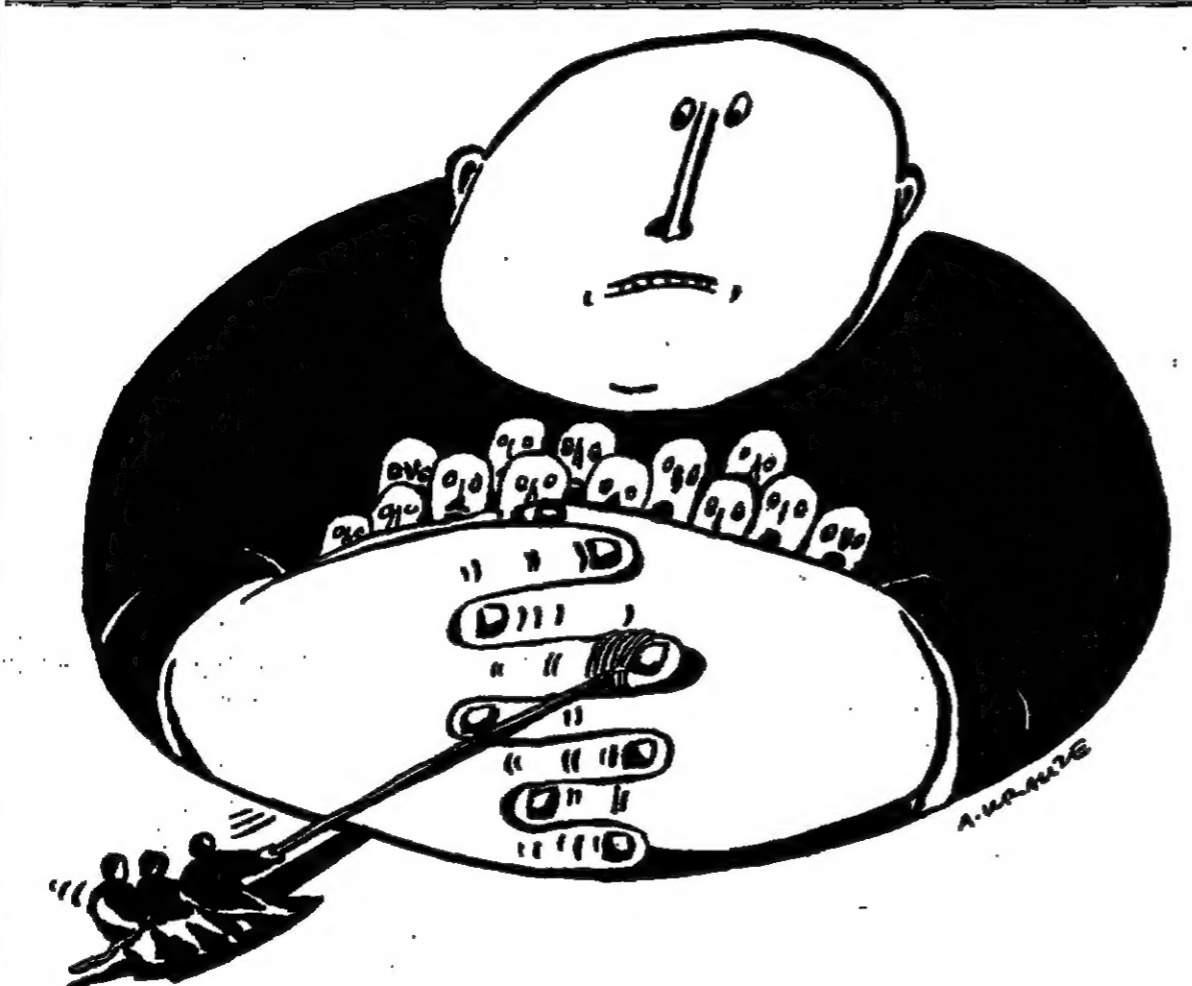
How dare they dig into my private life!



Bel Littlejohn

YOU'VE had your fun, guys. So now just cut it out - OK? It's been a hard decision, very hard...

SOMETHING is flaxing Tom King's Minehead party tonight to celebrate the Silver Anniversary of his election by the voters of Bridgewater...



Too little, too late

The Government's plans to combat child sex abuse are far too narrow, argues Bea Campbell. What we really need is a Children's Commissioner to fight their corner

LET me forget, it was not a child but an adult who denounced the Cheshire and Merseyside children's home investigations...

NSPCC's figures on the scale of crimes against children. Professor Jean La Fontaine reassures the Department of Health that there was no satanic abuse in Britain...

Investigations in Clwyd, like Cheshire and Merseyside, the Beck case in Leicester, Kinross in Northern Ireland, the failed New Barns trail and the successful Langahaw trail in Cheshire...

I AM proud, for instance, of the awards I picked up for my needle-sharp coverage of the Parkinson Affair. Here was a man who said one thing in public and did quite another in private...

TILL now word from Michael "Kerouac" Howard concerning his proximity or otherwise to mind-expanding substances (otherwise, we would imagine) during his skiffle-playing period...

Better wed than dead?

Anita Roddick calls for equal protection from domestic violence for married and unmarried women in the Family Law Bill

IT IS all well and good MPs getting hot under the collar about the moral debate surrounding divorce, but while they are blustering hot air about the "threads of society coming away in our hands"...

domestic violence "have not given each other the commitment involved in marriage". I find this staggering, as well as insulting...

It won't challenge the consortium of teaching unions whose campaign for protection against "false allegations" has been heard sympathetically by the Government in an unprecedented way...

New Statesman advertisement featuring a picture of a man and the text 'Royals for sale'.

New Statesman advertisement with the text 'The new New Statesman new look, new writers, new thinking'.



Edward Bernstein

Pathfinder in the Woods

THE DEATH of Eddie Bernstein at 91 removes one of the most celebrated of financial and monetary experts of our time and the last major link with Bretton Woods.

While not the architect of the post-war international financial system agreed at Bretton Woods, he played a key part in the preparation of the plan devised by Harry White and backed by the Americans in opposition to Keynes's more ambitious proposals for a Clearing Union. In the negotiations Bernstein acted as American spokesman and was both technical adviser and executive secretary of the US delegation.

In the last few days of the conference he was also appointed chairman of the Special Committee on Unsettled Questions. His great gift was to come up with solutions to the most difficult financial problems and to expound them with great lucidity and conciseness. He thought that "there was nothing like being able to write" and he himself could think and write quickly, clearly and well.

Keynes, who was not happy to see the White Plan supersede his own, began by venting some of his frustration on Bernstein, regarding him (wrongly) as the source of White's leading ideas and describing him, in a letter to the Treasury, as "a regular little rabbi, a reader out of the Talmud". But by the end of the conference Keynes was singing his praises "as the hero of Bretton Woods, the economist who made everything clear".

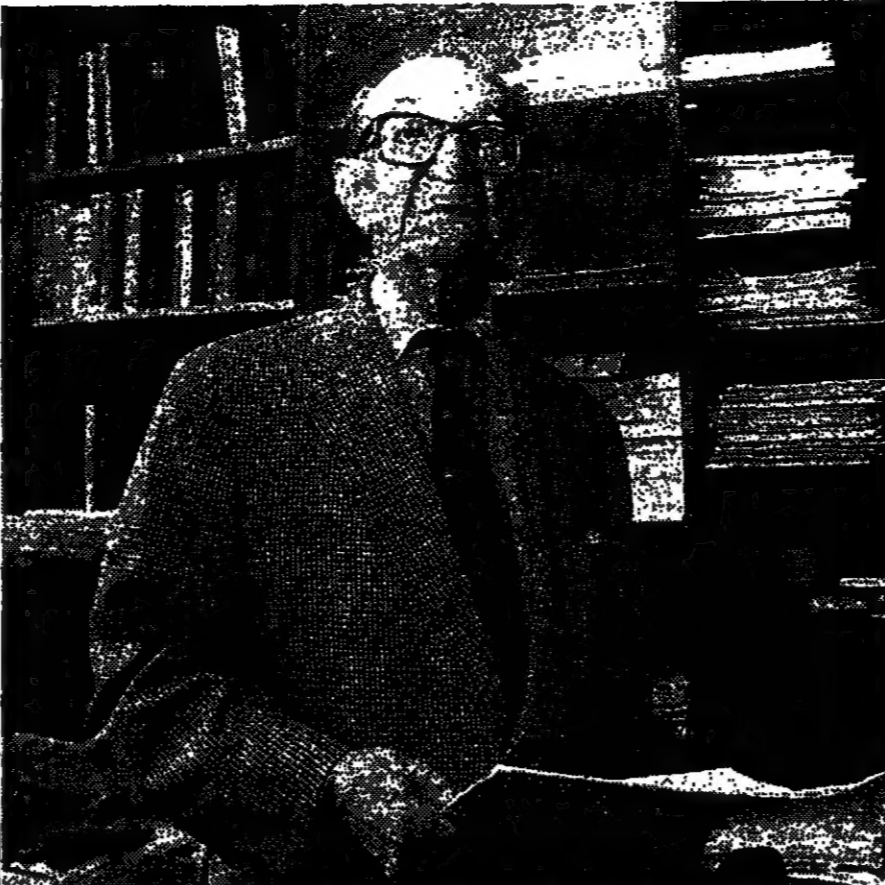
After the conference it was Bernstein who wrote all the Congressional committee reports on Bretton Woods, as he did also later on the British loan agreement. He also helped to guide the Bretton Woods Agreement through Congress over the objections of the banking community. Bernstein was the youngest

of three children of an insurance agent in New Jersey — the only boy in the family and the only child to be sent to university. From an early age he wanted to be an economist, or perhaps a journalist, specialising in economics, and at 16 he had already acquired a grounding in the subject at school, on which he drew in an essay competition on The Port of New York, winning the prize of \$25.

At the University of Chicago, where his teachers included Jacob Viner, he mixed regularly with graduate students and from his second year took graduate classes almost exclusively. He spent a good deal of time on anthropology and sociology, including both in his degree. From Chicago he went on to Harvard with a scholarship to study under Teussig. He attended lectures on money by Hawtrey (who happened to be in Harvard for a year) and was impressed by his approach to monetary theory but he regarded him as a very bad teacher. At Harvard he won both a Ricardo Prize Scholarship and the university fellowship, earning enough money from these to dissuade him from leaving university life for a journalistic career.

In the long hot summer of 1930, he typed away in the nude at his dissertation on the pricing of public utilities in the first world war, stopping to take a shower every half hour. A few months later he embarked on his academic career just as the Great Depression was beginning. He started as an associate professor at one university in North Carolina and later became full professor at another, the first Jew in each case to be appointed to the staff. This did not reflect prejudice on the part of the staff or trustees (two of whom were Jews) but was blamed on the students, who were not accustomed to Jewish teachers.

Early in the 1930s he produced his first book — *Money*



Bernstein... typed his dissertation on public utilities in the nude

CHARLES TANNAN

and the Economic System — which attracted much attention and to which he often referred later as giving expression to new thoughts on the operation of a monetary standard.

In 1940 he left academic life, meaning at first to spend only the summer months with Harry White in the Treasury but staying to become assistant director of monetary research. The three summer months were employed in drafting answers to a long questionnaire on monetary policy from the Senate Banking Committee. Bernstein liked the answers but by the time they were submitted the committee had lost interest and they were never printed. When he agreed to stay he became responsible for research on inflation and the balance of payments and, when the US entered the war, was given the job of economic adviser on foreign funds control — ie, exchange control.

From 1942 he was also working on plans for the post-war financial system, supervising the technical studies for Harry White's plan for an international stabilisation fund. This brought him into the succession of international conferences in 1942-43 leading up to Bretton Woods.

Among his early activities in the Treasury was an attempt to predict the rise in prices in wartime. Although he regarded himself as a monetarist, he based his answer on the likely rise in wages and raw material prices in the light of experience in recovering from past recessions and concluded that, although there would be a large rise in prices after the war, wholesale prices were likely to rise by only about 33 per cent during the war. Milton Friedman, a true monetarist, brought to work on the same question, concluded that

prices would rise eightfold on the assumption of a large budget deficit financed mainly by the banks. No such increase occurred during the war. After the war, Bernstein moved from the Treasury to the newly founded International Monetary Fund as director of research. This was after Jean Monnet had asked him pointedly who was going to run the IMF and Keynes had told him that he looked forward to his becoming director of research. He remained with the IMF until 1958, when he found that he could not get on with the new managing director, Per Jacobson. He had built up a staff, produced many papers developed a system of work and floated two periodicals, *International Financial Statistics* and *Staff Papers*. He had been a popular member of the staff and was much missed. There was even a *Love* to bring him back as deputy managing director. After his retirement he turned down offers of academic employment and, when central banks wrote to him to say how much they would miss the papers he wrote at the IMF, offered to continue them on a subscription basis. He then founded a company, EMB Ltd, which issued two research reports monthly and a weekly or fortnightly letter on economic developments in the US. This service he continued for 23 years with about half the papers written by regular contributors from other countries.

Haika Grossman

The faith of a ghetto fighter

GIVEN the choice, Haika Grossman, who has died aged 76, would have been the ideal candidate for the Arab voters in the recent Israeli elections. This was a highly political woman whose philosophy shouted for her fellow Jews to get out of the occupied territories — without reservation.



Grossman... commitment

But that would have been an over-simplification. Her calls for an Arab state came from a deep belief that it was essential for Israel's own sake as it was for its neighbours. Zionism was a movement of humanity. And she was not just a committed Zionist but one who had been willing to die for her principles.

In 1939, as a 19-year-old in her native Poland, she defined Zionism as preserving Jewish life, not simply trying to escape to what was then Palestine. Despite having an exit visa to leave occupied Poland, she chose to remain and help organise whatever resistance was possible. She was one of the few survivors.

She could not have foreseen what the Holocaust would mean but she knew that few were willing to fight the Germans on their own terms — she had to join those who could. She soon learnt the effect of the Nazi death machine. Both her parents were murdered — her father shot, her mother dying in the Majdanek death camp.

In the summer of 1943, she was one of the band of youngsters who for four days held out against the Nazis in her native Bialystok. With perhaps a single stolen pistol between 12 people, or the occasional Molotov cocktail, they kept the German troops at bay in the ghetto there. She also joined the ghetto fighters in what had once been called the Jerusalem of Lithuania, Vilna (now Vilnius).

A tiny person who did not look particularly Jewish, she posed as a non-Jewish Pole who she crawled in and out of the Warsaw Ghetto on a series of underground missions, bringing news of the outside world and the occasional gun. Later, when asked how Jews could face those times, she said there was a rumour that the Nazis intended to destroy every remnant of Jewry except 12 people who would be bussed from place to place as examples of the exotic species that had once existed. "We all thought we would get on that bus," she said.

Resistance was always hopeless but the handful who fought in the uprisings and survived had the satisfaction of doing something. It was an

opportunity open to very few. When their efforts finally crumbled, Grossman and a handful of companions joined a group of Jewish partisans in the forests around Bialystok.

After the war, she served as the representative of Ha Shomer Ha-Tsa'ir, the Marxist-Zionist organisation in Poland, co-ordinating the departure of the remnant of Polish Jewry. In 1948 she finally arrived in what was now Israel. It was another example of commitment on her part. Two sisters had survived the Holocaust but a brother, conscripted into the Red Army, did not. For her Israel was her homeland and she wanted to help build this new country. She joined her organisation's kibbutz, Eytan, where a portrait of Stalin hung in the dining room. There she married Meir Orkin, a childhood friend from Bialystok, but took the almost unheard of step of retaining her maiden name, a sign that the independence she had shown as a partisan was still strong.

She was an ideal parliamentary candidate for the Mafpen party, the political wing of Ha Shomer Ha-Tsa'ir, far to the left of the larger Mafpat group (the two would later merge to form the rump of what is now the Israeli Labour Party). In 1968, she took her seat in the Knesset and went on to become a deputy speaker. She served for 20 years.

The last three years of her life were spent in a coma. In 1993, at a reception for Israel Independence Day in an Arab village, she slipped and fell down a steep flight of steps and never recovered. She is survived by her husband, two daughters and three grandchildren.

Michael Freedland

Haika Grossman, resistance fighter and politician, born November 20, 1919; died May 28, 1996

John Alton

Film's painter with light



Shades of a master... Alton's work on He Walked By Night, with Richard Basehart

DESPITE cinema being the most collaborative of arts, the director is ultimately responsible for the heart, head and eye of the film, although the cinematographer is often attributed with the last. Yet even the best of cinematographers, such as John Alton, who has died aged 94, can only realise the director's vision through his own resourceful technical skills.

Alton's work varied greatly depending on the director's style, ranging from the stark for Anthony Mann, the fleshy for Richard Brooks and the refined for Vincente Minnelli. Three directors aesthetically worlds apart. Yet he became so respected a cameraman that many creative decisions were taken jointly with him.

The cosmopolitan and polyglot Alton was born in Hungary, emigrating as a teenager to the US in 1919. Five years later, passionate about photography, he joined MGM as a lab technician. He went with Seymour Lubisch to Europe in 1927 to shoot exteriors for *The Student Prince* and stayed on in Paris for five years as head of the camera department at Joinville studios. Subsequently, Alton moved to Argentina and set up that country's first sound stage. He added his life in Buenos Aires, where he directed, wrote and photographed more than a dozen films, and married local journalist Rosalia Kiss, with whom he remained until her death in 1967.

After service in the second world war, when he rose to the rank of captain in the US army, Alton started his Hollywood career in earnest. In the late 1940s, he established his reputation as a leading cinematographer of films noir, especially those directed by Mann. *T-Men*, *Hollow Triumph*, *Border Incident* and *The Crooked Way* were superb examples of highly-stylised, deep-focus, monochrome location photography, owing much to German Expressionism and in keeping with the alienation of the characters.

At MGM, in the 1950s, Alton provided more reassuring images for *Father of the Bride* and *Father's Little Dividend*. Minnelli's streamlined domestic comedies, and won an Oscar for the ballet photography of *An American in Paris* (1951). In the 15-minute dance line of the Minnelli musical, Alton's Technicolor camera captured the chromatic essence of the French Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings on which the tableaux dantesques were based.

Because the dapper Alton — who sported a neat moustache and wore a trilby, tweeds and silk bow ties — was a maverick by nature, he continually found himself at odds with the MGM front office. This resulted in his working frequently for other studios, where he had more freedom. An effective use of chiaroscuro infused *The Big Combo* (1955). Joseph H Lewis's classic sado-masochistic film noir, and a shadowy world, accentuated by lurid

colours (especially the flaming hair of sisters Ariene Dahl and Rhonda Fleming) was created by Alton Dwan's *Slightly Scarlet* (1956).

Back with MGM and Minnelli, Alton coped brilliantly with the richness of the decor and costumes in *Designing Woman* (1957) and provided a burnished surface to Richard Brooks's *The Brothers Karamazov* (1958). Brooks's *Elmer Gantry* (1960), which was boosted greatly by the Eastman Color photography evoking the Midwestern atmosphere of the Sinclair Lewis novel, was among Alton's best work, but it was to be his last completed film. In 1962, he quit *The Birdman of Alcatraz*, the director, was replaced by John Frankenheimer, and spent the next three decades in obscurity, travelling and painting in Europe and South America.

In 1993, some film scholars discovered his whereabouts and persuaded him to attend the Telluride Film Festival, where his movies were shown. Enjoying his rediscovery, Alton appeared at similar homages in Vienna and New York.

His 1949 book, *Painting with Light*, was republished last year, the title being an accurate description of a very special art of which John Alton was a master.

Ronald Bergan

John Alton, cinematographer, born October 5, 1901; died June 2, 1996

Birthdays

Sir James Black FRS, pharmacologist and medical researcher, 72; Paul Boateng MP, Labour legal affairs spokesman, 48; Mike Brantwell, founder, Hull-Truck Theatre Company, 48; Dame Florence Cayford, former member, LCC and GLC, 98; Stuart Evans, rugby player, 33; Julie Felix, singer, 57; Boy George, pop singer, 35; Steve Graf, tennis player, 27; Edna Healey, writer, Dorothy McGuire, actress, 77; Yvonne Moores, chief nursing officer and director of nursing, Department of Health, 55; Jonathan Raban, novelist, 54; Kathleen Raine, poet, 88; Dame Rosemary Rue, former president, BMA, 68; Pierre Salinger, journalist, former White House press secretary, 71; Antony Sher, actor and writer, 47; Nigel Short, chess player, 31; Prof Trevor Smith, vice-chancellor, University of Ulster, 59; James Wright, vice-chancellor, Newcastle-upon-Tyne University, 57; Mike Yarwood, impressionist, 55.

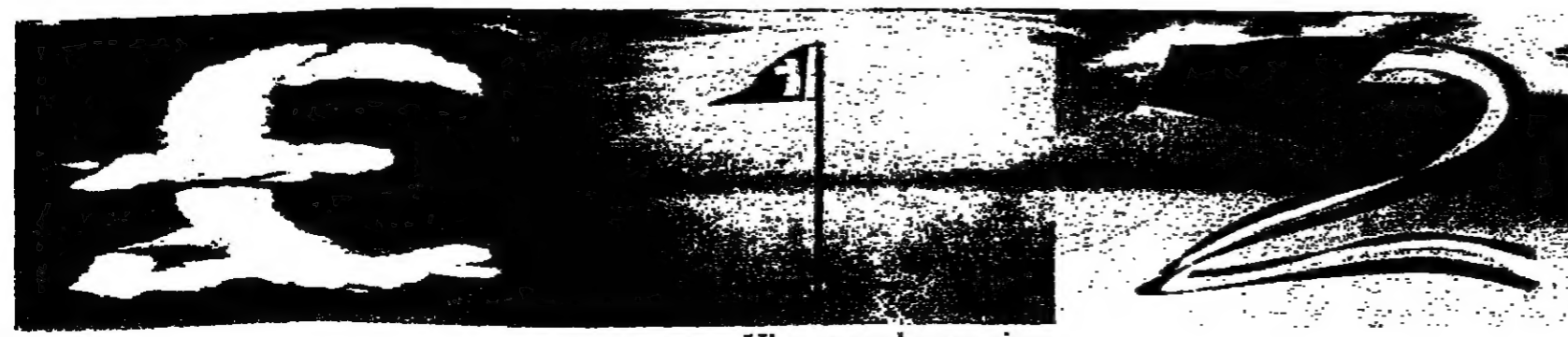
Letter

Mary Stott writes: Enid Hutchinson (obituary, June 9) was one of the founders of the very influential committee of the Fawcett Society (campaigners since 1865 for "equality of opportunity in law, custom and practice"). In the late 1970s some members got together on a Thames houseboat and agreed to set up an education committee. They appealed to education authorities, management boards, teachers and so on all over the country to widen education opportunities and career training for girls. Enid Hutchinson became the committee's convener and was deeply involved in the Fawcett Society's "positive action" awards scheme which adapted a positive response "from Cornwall to Dundee".

Acknowledgments

Thank-you Sacred Heart of Jesus and St John, St Prayer answered A.E. We place your announcement telephone 0171 712 4267. Fax 0171 712 4122.

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FinanceGuardian

Leaked memo shows Sainsbury taking £400m a year gamble on new customer card

Loyalty comes at big price

Lisa Buckingham

SAINSBURY, the supermarkets company, will need to increase its sales by up to £400 million a year to cover the costs of the loyalty card it plans to introduce next Monday, according to internal company documents.

A memorandum shows that managers estimate sales must rise by 2.4 per cent from last year's £10 billion "to offset some of the costs" of the new loyalty programme. There was an underlying fall of 3 per cent in the company's grocery sales last year.

Sainsbury is introducing the nationwide loyalty card in response to the success of rivals' schemes, notably Tesco's and Sainsbury's, which have been stealing market share from the company, recently topped from its position as Britain's number one food retailer.

The memo suggests that Sainsbury's delay in entering the loyalty-card war will cost it dear. The need to increase sales by up to 4 per cent compared with Tesco's assertion that it had to boost sales by only 1 per cent to break even with its Clubcard scheme, started last year, which is regarded as having been behind the supermarket's real like-for-like growth of nearly 5 per cent last year.

Asda, which has been forced by the courts to stop discounting Anadin paracetamol and vitamins, contends that retail price maintenance stifles competition and delivers big profits to drug companies and retailers. The Office of Fair Trading was reviewing price maintenance but was not expected to reach a decision until 1998, a spokesman for Asda said.

The supermarket operator complained to the EU's anti-trust division in April. Asda set out its case in talks with EU officials this week, arguing that the price maintenance system was similar to the net book agreement, which collapsed last year. The commission refused to exempt the agreement from EU competition law.

Notebook

Name of Lloyd's game still secrecy

Edited by Alex Brummer

LLOYD'S of London has finalised its blacklist of Names who will be penalised for the parts they played in racking up the market's near-crippling losses. The 175 Names include underwriters and agents. Lloyd's has added £18 million to the bills these Names will have to pay.

all of this when the Securities & Futures Authority's £8 million new market-surveillance system is running: not before time.

Business cash

AMONG the most critical issues addressed in Michael Heseltine's latest white paper on competitiveness is the role of small and medium sized business in the economy.

Think finance

IT IS no accident that the first serious London conference on the role of micro-finance in emerging markets was held this week under the auspices of the Centre for the Study of Financial Innovation. This London-based think-tank is developing a reputation for issuing a catholic range of issues.

Blacklist of Names 'fined' £18m in debt settlement

Pauline Springett

LLOYD'S of London has drawn up a blacklist of Names to be punished for their part in causing the industry's £18 billion recent £8 billion losses.



Body line... 27 veterans of Le Mans driving classic sports cars were waved off from the City of London yesterday by Bank of England Governor Eddie George and Sun Alliance chairman Sir Christopher Benson and headed for France and this weekend's 24-hour race

Singapore leaves Leeson carrying can

Patrick Donovan
City Editor

FORMER Barings trader, Nick Leeson, has been left to carry the can for the £830 million collapse of the City's oldest merchant bank after the Singapore government yesterday announced that it has dropped an investigation into two of his senior colleagues.

against either James Bax or Simon Jones, who were both directors of Barings Futures Singapore.

The two, who had been confined to Singapore pending the completion of the investigation, have been given back their passports and are now understood to be in Britain.

Mr Leeson went underground before catching a flight to Frankfurt in a bid to reach London. But he was arrested by German police and extradited to Singapore last year. He was tried and sentenced in November.

Further action in this direction will be taken with respect to these individuals", it added.

Southern Electric opens bidding with promise to shrink water bills

Ian King

SOUTHERN Electric yesterday set the clock ticking on its bid for Southern Water, promising the target group's customers a 4 per cent reduction in their bills by April 1999.

Suits need not apply for this finance director's position

Tony May

STRUT on down, you funky finance dudes. Shuck that tie, dump that Samsonite briefcase, ditch those hornrim shades and roller-blade on down to Diesel jeans to be interviewed for the post of finance director-designate.

Financial adviser is fined under new rules on pension transfers

Sarah Whitebloom

AN INDEPENDENT financial adviser yesterday became the first firm to be fined by a City regulator for flouting tough rules on pension transfers which were introduced following the disclosure that thousands of personal pensions had been mis-sold.

£8m pay-out for British Gas women forced to retire at 60

Souras Milne

FOUR hundred former British Gas women workers forced to retire at 60 have been awarded more than £8 million compensation between them, their union announced yesterday.

£8m pay-out for British Gas women forced to retire at 60

Souras Milne

British Gas was guilty of discrimination under the EU equal treatment directive.

£8m pay-out for British Gas women forced to retire at 60

Souras Milne

Rodney Bickerstaffe, Union general secretary, welcomed the settlement but said it was "disappointing that British Gas dragged this out so long to pay modest amounts when they were throwing money at their highly-paid executives".

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Finland 7.1250	Hong Kong 11.57	New Zealand 2.2175	Sweden 10.14
France 7.71	India 52.7	Norway 9.78	Switzerland 1.6575
Germany 2.28	Indonesia 1,6425	Portugal 208.00	Turkey 118.785
Greece 364.00	Israel 5.02	Saudi Arabia 5.72	USA 1,4975

Supplied by Reuters Bank (including Japan rupee and Israeli sheqel)

Rate cut hopes climb following fall in inflation

Richard Thomas
Economics Correspondent

HOPES that Chancellor Kenneth Clarke will deliver further cuts in interest rates rose yesterday after the publication of figures showing a sharp fall in inflation.

The Office for National Statistics said cheap food and lower mortgage payments pushed the annual rate of price rises down to 2.2 per cent last month — the lowest rate since December 1994 against 2.4 per cent in April. The underlying inflation rate — which strips out housing costs — also dipped to 2.8 per cent in May, from 2.9 per cent the preceding month.

City analysts, who were surprised by the upbeat figures, might see the move as Mr Clarke repeating last week's quarter-point cut in the cost of borrowing to 5.75 per cent.

Ian Shepherdson, UK economist at HSBC James Capel, said: "The Chancellor will

probably cut again later in the year. And there is no chance of him putting rates back up before the election: he'd rather jump off Tower Bridge."

Coming after news last week of a plunge in factory gate prices, economists said yesterday's data could mark the beginning of a sustained period of low prices.

"These figures provide the first strong evidence that the inflation tide has begun to turn decisively," said Mr Shepherdson. "Any more news like this and Mr Clarke will be following his predecessor and singing in the bath — but with more justification."

Andrew Cates, an economist at brokers UBS, said: "Combined with Clarke's soft spot for manufacturing, the risk is that he will cut rates again."

The Treasury said the ONS figures rounded off an excellent week for the Chancellor, vindicating his decision to overrule Bank of England misgivings and trim rates last week.

"This is further good news on inflation," a spokeswoman said. "The numbers suggest that subdued producer prices are holding back high street prices, too," she said.

ONS officials said buoyant demand for retail goods had failed to drive up price tags, as some experts had predicted, with personal and household goods — two boom areas for sales volumes — falling in price between April and May. Seasonal food costs rose by just 2 per cent last month, compared to a 4 per cent rise in the same period last year.

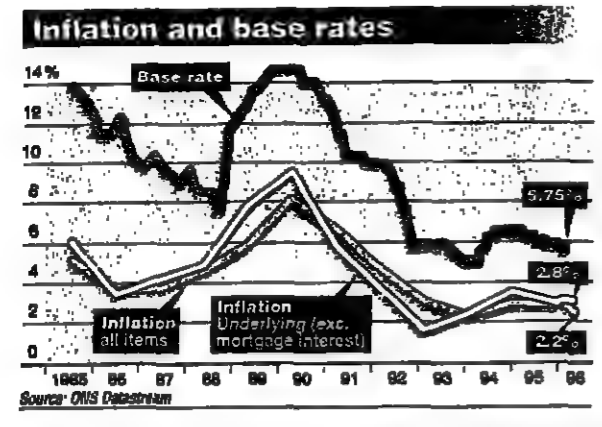
Falling mortgage costs also exerted downwards pressure on the Retail Price Index, swamping the effects of rising house prices, the ONS said. Only rising motor costs sullied the picture of widespread price restraint.

The ONS third measure of inflation, RPI-Y, which strips out indirect taxes as well as mortgage interest, fell even more dramatically, from an annual rate of 3.6 per cent in April to 2.3 per cent last month.

Market watchers said the latest evidence of subdued inflationary pressure shortened the odds on the Government hitting its target of 2.5 per cent for the underlying rate of price rises.

"We expect further falls in the underlying rate," said Kevin Darlington, chief economist at ABN Amro. "It could well flirt with the Chancellor's target by the end of the summer."

But Mr Darlington warned that strong figures for retail sales and money supply next week could force Mr Clarke to delay any further easing of monetary policy.



Copper market's chiefs talk to City watchdogs

THE London Metal Exchange admitted yesterday that its ability to police the world's premier market for non-ferrous metals is limited.

Speaking in the wake of unprecedented volatility in the price of copper and widespread allegations of price-rigging, chairman Raj Bagri said the exchange was talking about the matter with the Securities and Futures Authority, the City watchdog.

At the centre of discussion is the question of how to monitor broking firms which are not members of the LME but which still pass trades through the market or carry out off-market transactions.

"The Financial Services

Act does not allow the LME to regulate non-members," Mr Bagri said.

Neither Mr Bagri nor the exchange's chief executive, David King, could shed further light on reports that turbulence in the copper market had led to government-level discussions between Britain and Japan, a big consumer of copper.

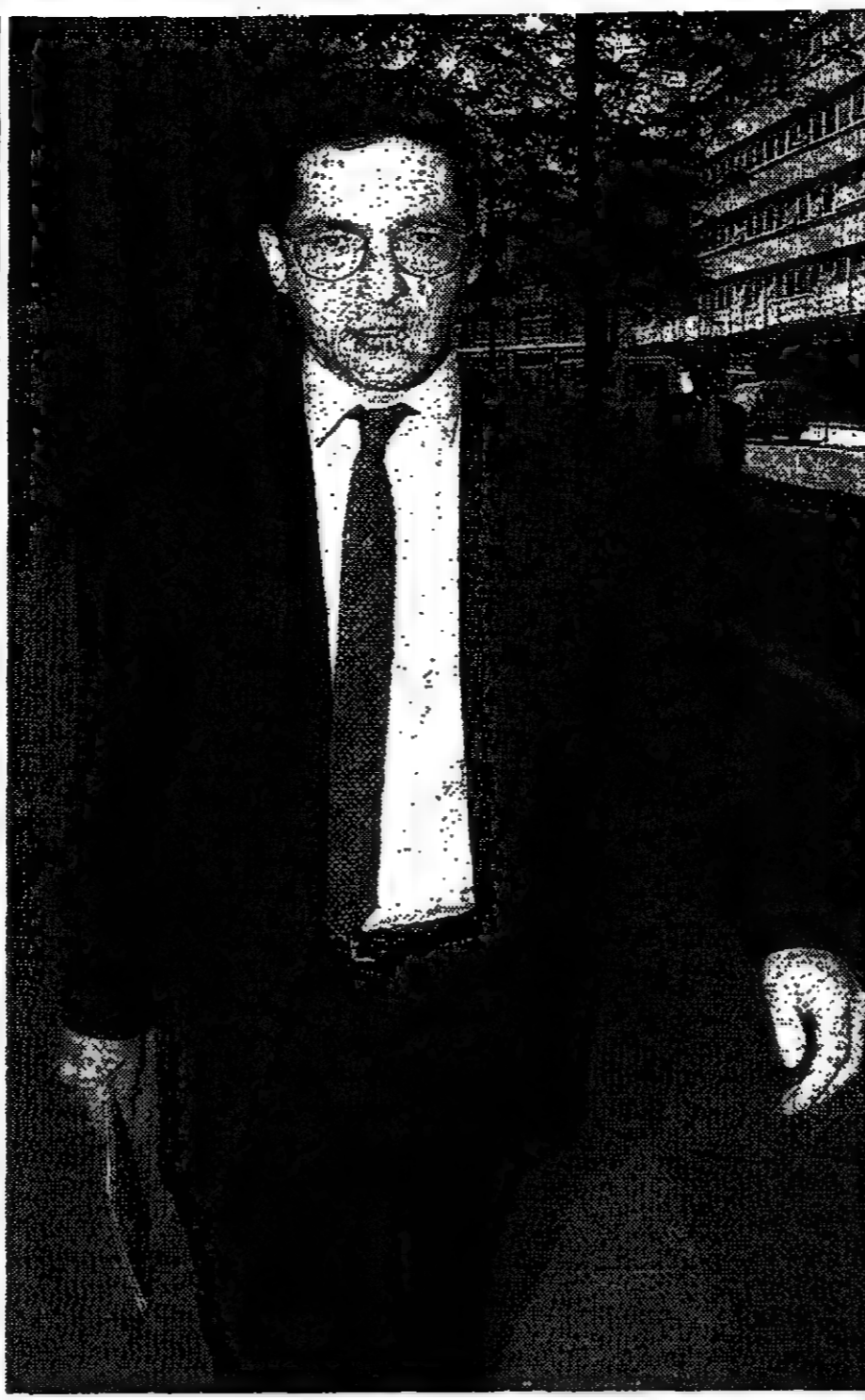
The recent price fall has been attributed in part to uncertainty over the position of one Japanese trader. While Mr Bagri admitted that the LME was not happy with the state of the copper market, the exchange has stopped short of talking action to calm dealers, beyond technical measures including an increase in the margin payment traders must make before doing business.

Mr Bagri said that he was

not aware of any metals trading firms facing bankruptcy as a result of wild fluctuations in the copper price — which one day last week fell by more than 15 per cent in two hours — and stated that the exchange was not investigating any cases of possible price manipulation.

"We don't believe that manipulation is taking place," Mr King said. "We have carried out inquiries and are looking at the issues on an ongoing basis. I can assure you that we would have come down like a ton of bricks. We would not tolerate it."

The LME was not prepared to comment on a series of police raids in the Channel Islands last month, which are believed to have been linked to trading in the copper market.



Seeking review... Kevin Maxwell at the High Court yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: JEFF MOORE

New trial judge choice challenged by Maxwell

KEVIN Maxwell yesterday challenged the Lord Chancellor's choice of judge for his impending second trial, calling for the re-appointment of Lord Justice Phillips, who presided over his first case.

Mr Maxwell, who was acquitted of two charges at the end of the first trial in January, said the re-appointment of Lord Justice Phillips would save both time and money.

Alan Jones, Mr Maxwell's QC — who represented him during the eight-month trial — told the High Court the second trial was likely to be even longer and would be "of considerable complexity".

Applying for a judicial review of the Lord Chancellor's decision to appoint Mr Justice Buckley, Mr Jones

said the decision was "unlawful and irrational", and said a new judge would make "heavy, expensive and time-consuming demands" on counsel and solicitors.

He said the appointment of another judge was likely to cause serious additional delay and public expense in a "notorious case that has already been protracted, arduous and expensive".

He added: "The first trial judge is uniquely qualified, from his detailed knowledge of the case, to deal with arguments and issues. There is such inter-locking of evidence on the counts that it is obviously desirable that the same judge deal with it."

Mr Jones said he believed that the director of the Serious Fraud Office, who has brought the second prosecution, was not opposed to his application and appeared to

recognise the "strong desirability" of re-appointing Lord Justice Phillips.

He also blamed the Lord Chancellor's department of using "administrative convenience" for not reappointing Lord Justice Phillips because of the workload facing the appeal courts.

In his second trial, Kevin Maxwell, along with former Maxwell adviser Larry Trachtenberg — a defendant in the first trial — and former Maxwell Communication Corporation director Albert Fuller, will face charges related to the alleged misuse of shares in Berlitz, a former MCC subsidiary. Meanwhile, Michael Stoney, another former MCC director, will face two charges of false accounting.

The judicial hearing, before Lord Justice Henry and Justice Sachs, will continue today.

News in brief

Motor cover leads premiums rise

INSURANCE premiums are set to rise this year, with the cost of motor policies likely to show the sharpest increases, the Association of British Insurers warned yesterday. John Carter, ABI chairman, said the industry had enjoyed a "win, win" year in 1995 because policyholders had benefited from cheap premiums and shareholders had received bigger dividends on the back of bumper profits.

But Mr Carter warned that insurance was a cyclical industry and premiums would inevitably start to rise this year. There were already signs that motor rates had begun to do so. Mr Carter was speaking at the ABI revealed that the insurance industry received £36.8 billion in worldwide general premiums last year, a 6 per cent increase on 1994.

The trading profit on this, including investment income, was £3.9 billion, marginally lower than the previous year. The life industry continued to show signs of regaining customer confidence, with UK life premium income 3 per cent higher than the previous year at £44.1 billion. — *Pauline Springett*

\$1m bounty for trader

A SENIOR US Treasury official considered paying bounty hunters more than \$1 million to bring in Swiss-based commodities trader Marc Rich — on the run from the American authorities for more than a decade because of alleged commercial links with Iran.

Colleagues of the chief enforcer of sanctions, Richard Newcomb, were horrified by the 1992 kidnapping plot, according to the Wall Street Journal. Mr Rich, now living in Switzerland, fled from the US in 1983 in the face of tax evasion and fraud charges. US officials have been quoted as saying he remains high on their wanted list. — *Mark Miller*

Shipyard jobs warning

THREE thousand shipbuilding jobs at VSEL in Barrow — more than half the workforce — will be lost in the next three years unless major work is secured, Brian George, chief executive, warned yesterday. He said the company was investing in new processes and equipment and must now aim for a reduction in costs of 30 per cent.

Mr George called for a new culture at the yard as work on the Trident submarine contract comes to an end and the company focuses on new submarine and surface ship contracts. The company was confident of winning these contracts. He said: "We must line up the terms and conditions of this yard with other yards with which we have to compete."

Cable cash dents Mail profits

HEAVY investment in new ventures, such as cable television, is expected to knock profits at the Daily Mail and General Trust group in the current financial year, the company warned yesterday. First-half profits rose from £38.3 million to £41 million although they slipped marginally on an underlying basis.

Newsprint prices for the company, which publishes the Daily Mail, Mail on Sunday and the London Evening Standard, rose by 26 per cent but the group said the levelling out in these costs coupled with a diminution in promotional expense meant profit growth in its newspaper division should reflect increased circulations. — *Liz Buckingham*

Advisers win court battle

ACCOUNTANTS Ernst & Young and actuaries Bacon & Woodrow yesterday celebrated a significant legal victory after a High Court judge ruled they had not given negligent professional advice to Dutch insurer NRG over its purchase of Victory Reinsurance in 1980. It is understood that NRG had been seeking damages in the region of £400 million.

Bacon & Woodrow said that although Mr Justice Colman had found the actuarial firm negligent in one minor respect, he had decided it had no bearing on NRG's decision to make its acquisition. The case first went to court in January 1995. Last August NRG abandoned an attempt to sue Swiss Bank Corp over the acquisition. — *Pauline Springett*

Moss Bros buys stores

MOSS Bros is buying the Blazer men's casual wear retail chain from Storehouse for £7.1 million and plans to triple the number of Blazer stores. Moss Bros, best known for its formal menswear business, runs 129 stores, the Seven Shillings Guild, Cecil Ges and The Suit Company brands. Blazer has 28 stores, primarily in London and the South-east, and Moss Bros said it would create up to 50 more. — *Tony May*

FKI plans £270m deals

FKI, the engineering and automotive group, is in negotiations for two "sizeable" acquisitions which could cost up to £270 million in total, finance director Eric Bowers said. He was speaking after announcing a 33.3 per cent rise in profit to £90.1 million for the year to March 31 — which were well ahead of analysts' expectations. — *Tony May*

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Panel limits predators' use of derivatives

THE Takeover Panel yesterday shake-up in City takeover rules aimed at preventing the misuse of derivatives during bids.

The panel said details of derivatives transactions must be made public during bid contests — in the same way that share deals and shareholdings must be disclosed.

The rule, which comes into effect immediately, will apply to all takeover bids, parties to an offer, their associates and large shareholders. It will prevent hostile bidders "disguising" their interest in target companies by using financial derivatives, such as futures and options contracts.

The panel's decision, made after a lengthy inquiry, follows an appeal made during Trafalgar House's abortive £1.2 billion bid for Northern Electric in March last year.

This saw a row over derivatives contracts entered into by Trafalgar and its financial adviser, Swiss Banking Corporation, under which SBC took stakes in Northern — and other regional electricity companies — before the bid was launched.

The panel was backed by the City's leading watchdog, the Securities and Investments Board, which yesterday published its 30-page draft guide on the use of derivatives in corporate finance.

The SIB said corporate financiers should not use derivatives allowing its clients to buy or sell stakes in companies when those clients were prevented from buying or selling a stake in that company directly on the open market.

Stay in Europe — for now, advises maverick Minford

Wise man tells Clarke that EU benefits enjoy slender advantage over costs. LARRY ELLIOTT reports

THE Conservative Party's week of soul-searching about staying in the European Community was rebuffed in January 1993.

In short, the argument is that Britain is inextricably linked to the Continent, sends an increasing proportion of its visible and invisible exports to the rich European markets, and has everything to lose from taking a stand-offish approach to discussions about further economic and political integration.

Enthusiasts for a single currency, including Mr Clarke, see potential benefits in monetary union. They believe it could provide long-term macro-economic stability, reduce the costs of transactions between mem-

ber states, increase the economic benefits from the Single Market and act as a bulwark against financial speculation.

The pro-Europeans have generally made the running since the 1975 referendum decided by a two-to-one majority that Britain should stay in Europe, if only because they have argued convincingly that the costs of pulling out would be enormous.

Prof Minford's paper demonstrates how far the pendulum has swung over the past couple of years, with the row over BSE in beef the catalyst for a more sceptical view of 23 years of membership.

At present, Prof Minford sees the argument as finely balanced. On the one hand, Britain loses out from the Common Agricultural Policy, which he estimates costs the UK about £10 billion a year in waste, higher prices and transfer payments to Brussels. This amounts to around 1.5 per cent of gross domestic product.

On the other hand, the paper finds that Britain enjoys a competitive advantage from being the focus of almost half of the inward investment into the European Union. Prof Minford, a strong supporter of deregulation, believes that Britain could generate an extra £9 billion from exports of consumer durables into the higher cost markets of continental Europe.

As a result, he concludes that at present the benefits and the costs essentially cancel each other out. However, signing up to the Social Chapter and joining a single currency would tip the balance massively in favour of the Euro-sceptics. On the improbable basis that a national minimum wage would be introduced at 68 per cent of mean male and female earnings, Prof Minford calculates that unemployment would rise by 1.1 million. A minimum set at 50 per cent of male and female earnings would, he estimates, mean a 500,000 increase in joblessness.

Two important political calculations stem from this analysis. First, Prof Minford believes Britain could not repudiate the CAP while at the same time enjoying the benefits of being a low-cost base for European inward investment. Second, a Labour government, whether committed to EMU and the Social Chapter would almost certainly push the Conservatives further towards support for exit from the EU. Prof Minford believes this is unlikely to happen, however, because Labour in office will be wary of Europe than Labour in opposition.

Pros and cons

For membership

- Access to the world's biggest market
- Farmers protected by Common Agricultural Policy
- Inward investment by Asian countries
- Social chapter (Labour)
- Collaboration on environmental issues
- Financial support for depressed regions

Anti membership

- Trade deficit with Europe
- Higher food prices
- Asian countries would invest here anyway
- Social Chapter (Conservative)
- Run our own economic policy
- We pay more to Brussels than we get back

The Guardian
Athletics
No illusion as John gets ell
One-lap rivals on trial to be also-rans in Atlanta
T
Cricket
Sport

JP 11/10/96

Athletics

No illusions as Johnson gets elbow

One-lap rivals on trial to be also-rans in Atlanta

Stephen Brierley

THE highly dramatised account of Eric Liddell's Olympic victory in the 400 metres in Paris in 1924, as portrayed in the film Chariots of Fire, bore scant resemblance to reality. Similarly the hype surrounding the 400m at this week-end's Olympic trials in Birmingham may have little relevance to actual events in Atlanta next month.

Sunday's one-lap final, the last race on the track after two and a bit days of competition, promises to be exceptionally competitive. At least seven runners starting will fancy their chances of winging off to Georgia. But to suggest that Britain has anything more than an outside chance, at best, of an individual 400m bronze medal in Atlanta would be thoroughly misleading.

The latest world list of best times this season reveals that no fewer than 13 Americans have dipped below 45sec; of the British contenders only Iwan Thomas (at altitude), Roger Black and Jamie Baulch have managed to nip below this barrier. Little wonder that Brad Hunt, the manager of the double world champion Michael Johnson, accused the British Athletic Federation of protecting "some illusion of Roger Black or Du'aine Ladejo are in the hunt", after it was revealed that Johnson had been "bounced" out of the 400m at the London Grand Prix on July 12.

Christie and Lewis head for the finish

Duncan Mackay on one of the great sprint rivalries

THIS week 12 months ago a tearful Linford Christie vowed not to compete at the 1996 Olympics, and his great rival Carl Lewis was so out of form in the 100 metres that it was impossible to conceive he would run in Atlanta. A year on, it is a different story. Christie is still refusing to say whether he will compete at the Games, but last week he beat the world champion Donovan Bailey, and few of his opponents doubt he will make the trip. And Lewis is running his fastest for five years.

Today both will settle into their blocks for the first round of the 100m in their country's Olympic trials: 36-year-old Christie in Birmingham, 34-year-old Lewis in Atlanta.

Neither man is prepared to step aside for youngsters such as Bailey just yet. Maybe there are more medals to be won by the athletes who have taken every Olympic 100m title since 1984.

Christie's career has been interlocked with Lewis's since they first met in Zurich 10 years ago, when the Ameri-

Olympics, pulled out of the trials yesterday with an Achilles tendon niggle. He has been troubled for two years with similar problems. His coach Vicente Modahl has called for him to be given more time, but this appears unlikely: unless Sunday's final times are poor.

The first two in every event this week-end, provided they have achieved the Olympic qualifying times or distances, will gain automatic selection for Atlanta. A third place, where appropriate, will be decided by the selection panel on Sunday evening and announced on Monday.

Black, the 400m European champion twice and world silver medal winner in 1991, years for Olympic success after injury thwarted him in Seoul and Barcelona. He had a knee operation last December but has since been training freely and without pain in California.

"The semi-final heats will be important. You want to make your mark and it's then you see what sort of form the others are in," Black said yesterday. He is a friend of Thomas and Baulch, who are sharp, but believes that Ladejo and Mark Richardson, fifth in last year's world championships in Gothenburg, have the pedigree to come through.

And a prediction of the places? "I don't know who will come second and third," Black said. Linford Christie, who has yet to commit himself publicly to defending his 100m Olympic title, will run both the sprints, and is expected to express his Atlanta intentions on television either tomorrow or Sunday - anywhere other than in the press room. Britain's chances of an Olympic gold medal in track and field in Atlanta probably rest on the slim shoulders of the triple jumper Jonathan Edwards, the world champion and world record holder. Unfortunately he will be missing from the trials because of injury. Also out injured is Steve Backley, the world silver medal winner in the javelin.

Athletes competing against suspended drug abusers who use court orders to enter the US Olympic trials will not be banned after all by the International Amateur Athletic Federation.

can finished third, the Briton fifth. If both make the trip, it seems fitting that Atlanta should bring down the curtain on a glorious period for sprinting. It will be a poorer event when they are no longer around.

Lewis, the eight-times Olympic gold medalist and winner of three consecutive world 100m championships, has had a dazzling career. And Christie has turned out to be something of a legend himself in his twilight years, winning the 1992 Olympic and 1993 world titles.

There have been times when Christie and Lewis have had mouthed each other and traded charges of ducking a duel, but the two have needed each other to push themselves to new heights.

The most memorable was five years ago when Lewis set a world record of 9.86sec at the world championships in Tokyo while Christie finished fourth in 9.92. Two years later in Stuttgart the roles were reversed and Christie won in 9.87 as Lewis came fourth.

That either of them would still be around in 1992, let alone four years later, was never a certainty. Like Lewis, Christie has toyed with retirement on an almost annual basis. Among those who urged that, if nothing else, there would be someone other than himself out there.

"I look at Linford and think if he's still running that well at 36, hey, there's no reason why I shouldn't be," Lewis said yesterday. "You may see the grey in my hair, but when the time comes I'll be there." As the words roll off his tongue you can imagine Christie sitting somewhere, nodding agreement.

Heaven sent... Nottinghamshire's paceman Cairns gives thanks as Weston departs, caught Bates for 21. Worcestershire were 342 for three, with Moody not out on 194, after the first day at New Road. PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BAXON



Heaven sent... Nottinghamshire's paceman Cairns gives thanks as Weston departs, caught Bates for 21. Worcestershire were 342 for three, with Moody not out on 194, after the first day at New Road. PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BAXON

Essex v Northamptonshire Modern times but same old faces

Paul Weaver at Chelmsford

IT WAS just like old times here yesterday as John Childs (45 in July) bowled to John Emburey (44 in August) just before Graham Gooch (43 next month) came in to bat. When David Acland (or AC Field as he was once called here) produces his keenly awaited report on the state of the game, he may reflect upon such days as this.

That is not to say that these three splendid cricketers should no longer be

playing, but that it is a sadness that they should continue to dominate younger colleagues so easily at an age when they should be reaching for the pipe and slippers instead of the Gray-Nicolls. Nor is it testimony to the strength of the game's youth that yesterday, with Mark Lloyd injured, Essex fielded Steve Andrew, who played for Hampshire from 1984-89 and for this county since 1990 but who has not yet won a county cap. Meanwhile Northamptonshire, without Curtly Ambrose

and Kevin Curran, brought back Neil Mallender (35 in August), who took only 17 wickets last season. At Essex the sense of family is strong, and the former captain Keith Fletcher and Brian Taylor looked on as the best batting came from Gooch. He made 38 from only 48 balls with six fours and a six, gleefully fielded on the rebound by his father Alf and for this county since 1990 but who has not yet won a county cap. Meanwhile Northamptonshire, without Curtly Ambrose

movement and uneven bounce and the visitors lost their first five wickets for 111. A single batting point appeared beyond them when Andy Roberts was ninth out at 163, but Paul Taylor and Mallender added 51 for the last wicket. Both Andrew and Ashley Cowan bowled a good opening spell and only Malachy Loye and David Roberts - the latter making his debut and happily still only 19 - showed any authority. Childs, then, came on to tease out the later order.

Scoreboard table showing cricket match statistics for Essex v Northamptonshire. Columns include team names, player names, runs scored, and wickets taken. Includes sub-sections for Essex, Northamptonshire, and Kent v Middlesex.

Cricket

County C'ship: Yorkshire v Warwickshire

Penney hits on hangover cure

David Hopps at Headingley

A CROWDED county circuit leaves precious little time for reflection, and for once Warwickshire and Yorkshire were grateful for that. As losing semi-finalists in the Benson and Hedges Cup, they were content to awake to emptiness, but they barely had time to swallow their bacon and eggs before their respective championship challenges intruded upon their grief.

The need to banish depression was even more urgent in what probably represents the first meaningful top-of-the-table contest this season. Yorkshire are leaders, needing more than ever to confirm their betterment in the four-day game; Warwickshire lurk just behind, with a game in hand, hearing the whispers that they are not quite the force of the past two years.

Yorkshire, having dismissed Warwickshire for 306 yesterday, will be content in the belief that they have achieved parity. They lost the toss on a sound, slow surface and if they had conceded 400 they would have been particularly vulnerable against Warwickshire's spinners. In less resolute times, that would have been their destiny. Warwickshire's hangover cure was supplied by Dominic Ostler, whose unconstrained strokeplay brought 85 from 115 balls, and Trevor Penney, who dispelled his own despondency by grafting for 54

hours for his second first-class century of the summer. Ostler attracts the most plaudits and won an England A tour last winter, but Penney possesses the higher career average, 43 as opposed to 36. Their respective dismissals yesterday gave clues why: Ostler, glorying in a pull against Silverwood, skied a return catch when a century was there for the taking; Penney ground on with minimal risk until a controlled innings came to grief on 125 when he fell leg-before to White.

White, savaged in Lancashire's late B&H assault, found some balm with a spell of three for four in 4.3 overs to end Warwickshire's innings. But Yorkshire's likeliest bowler was Gough, whose four for 66 in front of the chairman, the captain, Raymond Illingworth, to follow five wickets against Surrey at Middlebrough, suggested he is nearing England form.

Gough's Yorker brought two impressive victims, both without scoring. Moles, an outside spot for an England opening set if Knight's finger fails to heal in time, was bowled off the toe of his bat, and Pollock fell leg-before second ball. There has been an unkind wish in some quarters to rubbish Gough as a song-and-dance act, and his chances of an England recall are reduced while Mallyall's left-arm seam is tried in the name of variety. As the song-and-dance man might warn, that's what killed Music Hall.

India's batsmen fail again

NAYAN MONGLA, who is likely to open in next week's second Test at Lord's, hit an accomplished 74 not out to help India towards the respectability of 229 against Derbyshire yesterday.

facing humiliation at one stage when they slumped to 110 for eight, but the last Lord's hit an accomplished 74 not out to help India towards the respectability of 229 against Derbyshire yesterday. The tourists, who rested Sachin Tendulkar, were

Kent v Middlesex

Weekes again the centurion

Mike Selvey at Canterbury

ONLY delegates at a conference of tobacco manufacturers could have been offered more players than have Middlesex supporters this season. Eighteen have been used in their six championship games to date, with five debutants - including another yesterday, Peter Wellings instead of Mike Gettling, who apparently has been bitten by something virulent and burst out in lumps and a rash. Sounds like the barmaid again.

not out) to negotiate the second new ball, only four overs old, and take their total on to 500 today before giving Tufnell free rein. With just a couple of 50s hit, Weekes's season has started slowly. But he came into this match with confidence sky-high after an eight-wicket haul against Glamorgan and a Sunday league century against the same opposition. Yesterday he batted for just under 3 1/2 hours for his 106, starting in an opening stand of 110 with Harrison (40) and hitting 15 fours - one, enterprisingly, from yards down the pitch to reach three figures - and two sixes.

Headley gained some revenge by removing Weekes's middle stump, and shortly afterwards got mistimed a pull to square leg. Ramprakash was in an adhesive mood, however, taking 218 minutes over his 66 and making only 28 of a fourth-wicket stand of precisely 100 with Pooley. Pooley made 87 from 87 balls with 12 fours - seven of Patel in an extravagant acceleration after tea - before he was well caught by McCague at mid-off. Ramprakash was then bowled, driving gloriously at Fleming, leaving Brown and Wellings (30 not out) and Wellings (29

not out) to negotiate the second new ball, only four overs old, and take their total on to 500 today before giving Tufnell free rein. With just a couple of 50s hit, Weekes's season has started slowly. But he came into this match with confidence sky-high after an eight-wicket haul against Glamorgan and a Sunday league century against the same opposition. Yesterday he batted for just under 3 1/2 hours for his 106, starting in an opening stand of 110 with Harrison (40) and hitting 15 fours - one, enterprisingly, from yards down the pitch to reach three figures - and two sixes. Headley gained some revenge by removing Weekes's middle stump, and shortly afterwards got mistimed a pull to square leg. Ramprakash was in an adhesive mood, however, taking 218 minutes over his 66 and making only 28 of a fourth-wicket stand of precisely 100 with Pooley. Pooley made 87 from 87 balls with 12 fours - seven of Patel in an extravagant acceleration after tea - before he was well caught by McCague at mid-off. Ramprakash was then bowled, driving gloriously at Fleming, leaving Brown and Wellings (30 not out) and Wellings (29

Surrey v Leicestershire

Major stake for tidy Butcher

David Foot at The Oval

IT LOOKED like a pitch from the Golden Age; but The Oval often has that nostalgic sheen which is enticing for batsmen and infuriating for bowlers who perspire under midsummer sun. Surrey finished on 340 for six after, at times, stroking along with a disdain that suggested they were on their way to a total much closer to 500.

Mark Butcher is something of a revelation. His hundred was the second in succession and the fifth of his career. He is doubtless being monitored by those who are looking to England's future. These days he is a discriminating player, minimising wicket shots but clouting attractively whenever the bowler wavers.

After three and a quarter hours he reached his century with a six over long-on; an earlier six having come from a scooped hook off Mills. In the end he shaped to sweep the off-spinner Pierson but only succeeded in top-edging to square leg. This is proving a productive season for him and there

should be plenty of runs still to come from a tidy technique and to garnish the record of the Butcher dynasty. After winning the toss, Surrey started to accumulate at an engaging speed. Butcher and Bicknell, and then Butcher and Stewart, appeared to be apportioning easy runs with the same cosy bonding of Bob and Paula sorting out their living accommodation. But there had to be flaws. Bicknell unpredictably disappeared leg-before, and Stewart - happily back in the side after worries over his wife's health - fell victim to short-leg as he prepared to cut. Hollisoke was inexplicably run out, and the persevering Pierson, a tall, lean spinner who keeps his cap on while bowling as all the slow men once did, took four wickets from an unbroken stint of 37 overs, which was generously applauded. But Thorpe is still there, with a six and 12 sparky fours. He is on 84 and close to his fourth hundred of the season, although he should have been taken at long-leg off Wells when on 73.

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Handwritten signature: "Stoichkov"

EURO 96

Group B: Bulgaria 1, Romania 0

Over and out as ref robs Romania

Stoichkov's early strike wins battle of the Balkans

Michael Walker at St James' Park

IN THE run-up to this tournament all we seemed to hear about was...

On this occasion, however, the linesman was not Russian but Danish...

And so Romania depart, courtesy of a massive blunder by their goalkeeper Stelea...

By then they will know exactly what they have to do...

draw with each other and still go through. Bulgaria, the World Cup semi-finalists...

The man who should have had two on Sunday, only to have one disallowed...

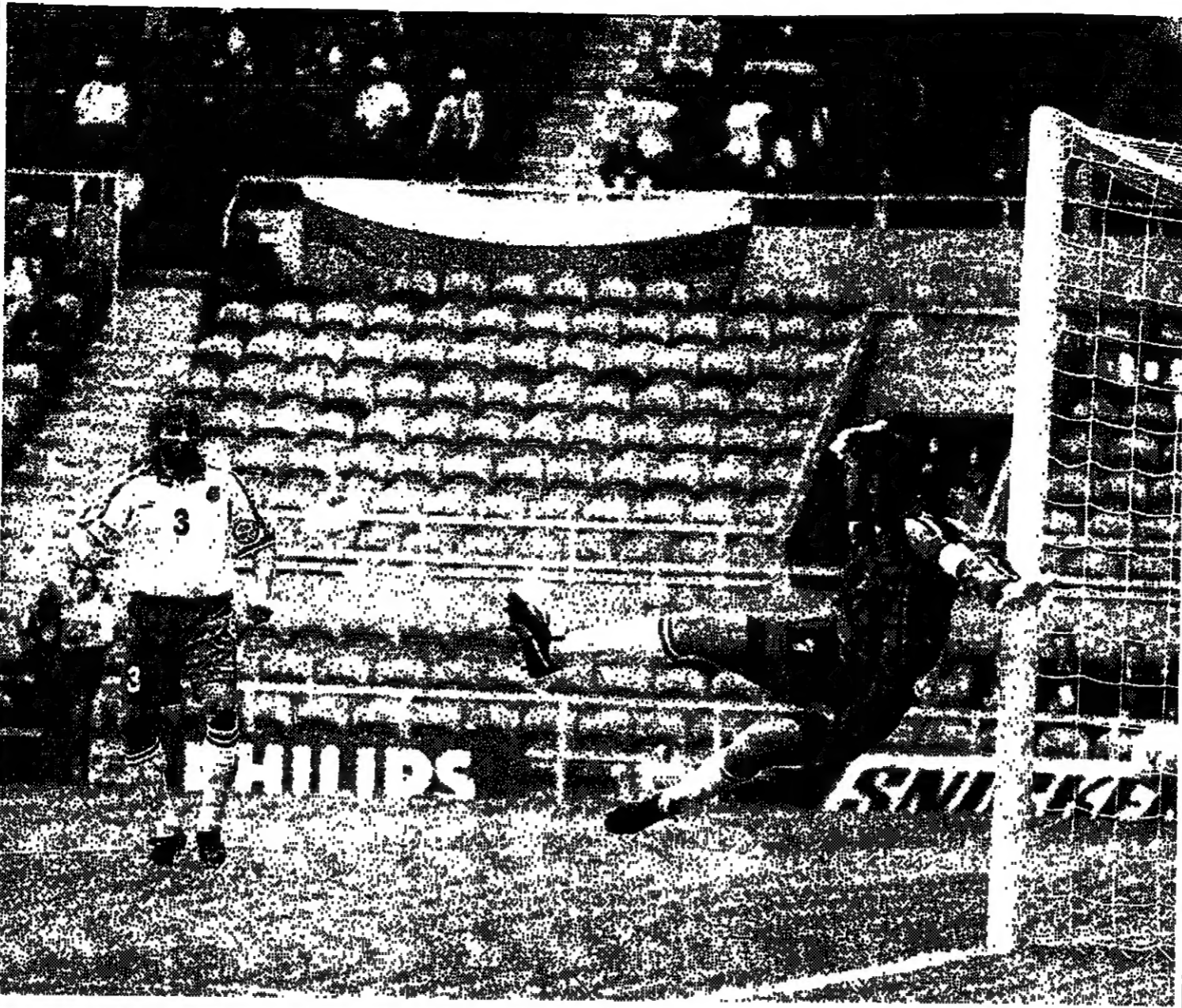
Like the menace he is, Stoichkov seized the moment, rushed into the space...

His opposition gunslinger, Hagi, was caught putting his belt on...

Yet it did not work out like that. Hagi was fundamental to almost every Romania attack...

Romania's two best chances both fell to Prodan, the wrong man. He put an unchallenged header wide from four yards...

BULGARIA: Mihailov, Kostalov, Ivanov, Jordanov, Tarlov, Tsvetanov, Lechkov, Ganchev, Stoi, Balakov, Kozlebov (Barinov, 22, Stoichkov, Ferov (Bilakov, 20).

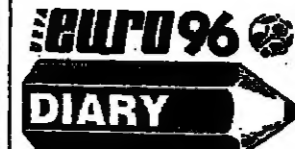


Echoes of 1966 and all that

FOR Geoff Hurst read Dorinel Munteanu; for Wembley read St James' Park. There was an echo of 1966 when Munteanu hit the underside of the bar...



Sol's plastic surgery



LET'S start with an exclusive: Gareth Southgate is out of the England team against Scotland tomorrow...

Those suspecting the dead hand of the FA behind this shock selection would be right...

It all began several months ago when the FA supplied Corinthian Marketing - the officially licensed manufacturer of plastic models of the England squad...

PS: the models are recognisable by their small bodies and big heads; rather like the FA, really.

HAVE you heard the one about the Yorkshireman who rang the FA with a problem? He had bought two seats together for all England's games for him and his best friend...

FAVOURITE chant of the tournament so far? Croatia's. Their song (phonetically reproduced for those readers not familiar with the correct pronunciation) 'Svi, svi, svi, yigar, yigar' is definitely unique to them...

DON'T tell Ian Paisley but Northern Ireland's manager Bryan Hamilton spent Monday night commenting on France-Romania from St James' Park...

AND finally, a new series. Ridiculous haircuts that Gazza should consider for later use. No. 1: Trifon Ivanov (Bulgaria, below).



Torsorial note: The agricultural look, as auditioned for Lady Chatterlov's Lover

Pure class of Portuguese

John Duncan hears Antonio Oliveira reaffirm his team's attacking principles

PORTUGAL have started Euro 96 as the team to watch and now is not the time to take your eye off them...

We have tried to play for a long time in a way that people who like football will not reject...

And that includes everyone at Euro 96 after a first round of matches dominated by the fear of losing...

the focus of Portugal's passing, Figo pulling the opposition this way and that with tireless running...

Despite that he got the job in 1994 after Portugal failed to qualify for the United States...

Since then, though, the papers have come to respect him. 'We all had

our doubts,' said Joao Mank of the sports daily Record...

And the players have a great rapport with one another, largely because many of them have been together for 12 years...

That said, nothing will change for today's game against Turkey at Nottingham's City Ground...

Turkish papers round on Ozalan

THE Turkey defender Alpay Ozalan has acquired friends at Uefa for his sportsmanship but he has created some powerful enemies back home...

Ozalan elected not to foul Goran Visovic as the Croatia substitute ran clear from half-way to score the late winner in Tuesday's Group D game in Nottingham...

The duties Ilurriyet and Sabah led the criticism. The former moaned, 'He could have hung on to his waist and prevented the goal'...

Irish hit back after referee sends off three

THE Republic of Ireland's chief executive yesterday threatened to reject all future invitations to play in the US Cup unless tournament organisers promise to improve refereeing standards...

The Republic are incensed after having their manager Mick McCarthy, Liam Daish and Niall Quinn sent off in Wednesday night's 2-2 draw with Mexico at the Glants Stadium in New Jersey...

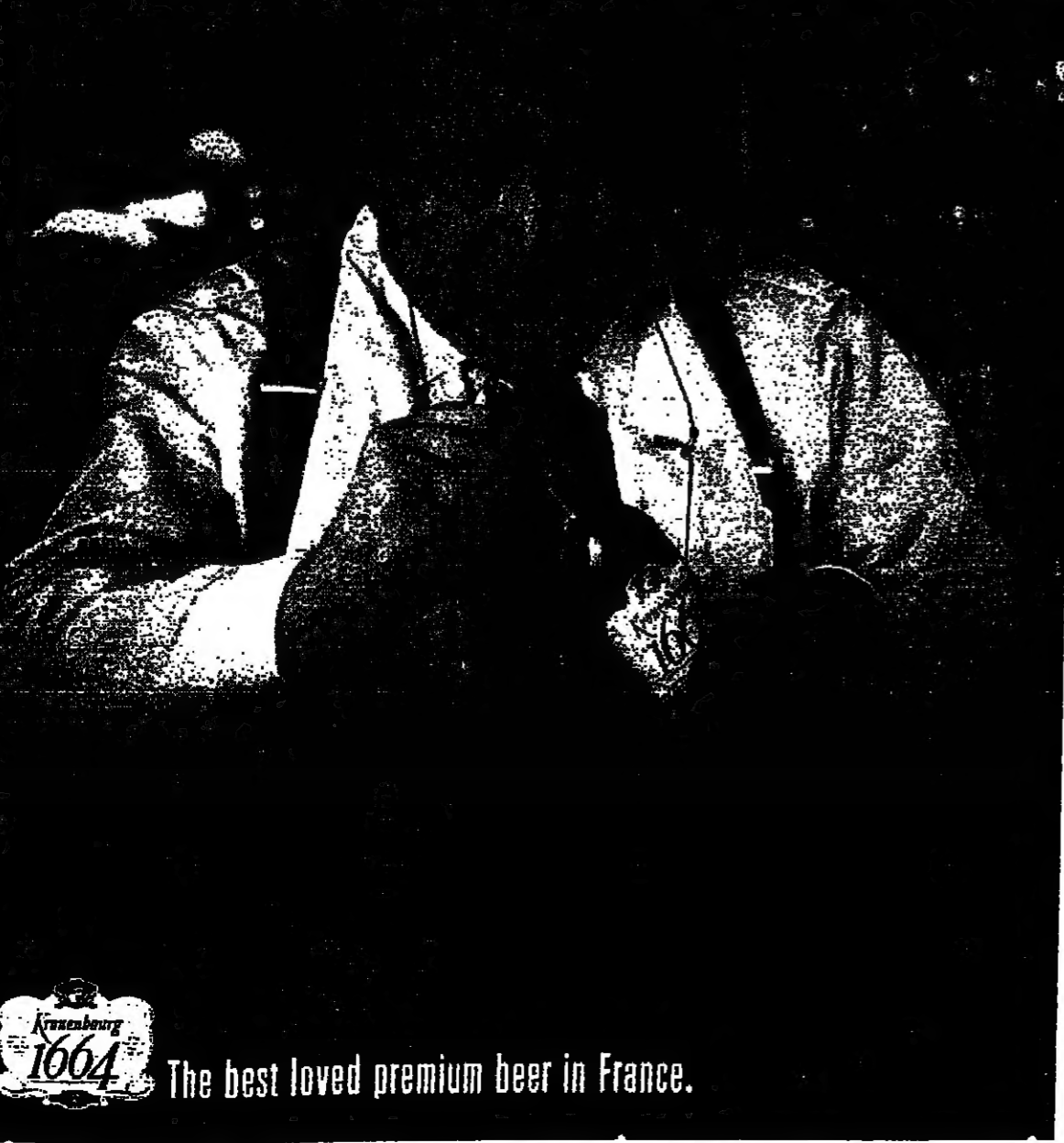
The FA's chief executive Brendon Menton said: 'Unless the Americans take action to improve the referees, we would have to look seriously at the situation as regards sending a team to future US Cups.'

can supporters and present them with the match ball. The game had erupted in the 57th minute with the Republic leading 2-1. Daish delayed taking a free-kick and was dismissed after Mexico's midfielder Jose Abundis reminded Dominguez that the Coventry defender had already been booked for a foul...

thy was dismissed when he threw the ball into the crowd to prevent the Mexicans taking a quick free-kick. 'I have never seen anything like what happened on the pitch,' said McCarthy, who will allow his assistant Ian Evans to take over in the dugout for tomorrow's game against Bolivia...

Advertisement for '2ND CORNHILL TEST ENGLAND V INDIA' at Lord's Cricket Ground, including dates and ticket information.

«Tennis? I prefer the French Open»



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